PALESTINE.

21/36

Department of Posts & Telegraphs

ANNUAL REPORT

1936.

JERUSALEM, 1937.

PRICE 50 MILS

30046—150—14.1.37.—A.P.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1936

Despite the adverse conditions resulting from the disturbances, the increase in volume of business which occurred in the years 1934 and 1935 was maintained in 1936.

2. *Revenue.*

Revenue amounted to £P.450,456 compared with £P.409,173 in 1935 and £P.333,572 in 1934.

The principal increases were as follows:-

	£P.	
Sale of Stamps	18,474	(9%)
Telephones	19,042	(13%)
Broadcast Licence Fees	4,315	(70%)

Other increases were:-

	£P.
Commission on Money Orders	357
Postal Order Poundage	270
Telegrams	1,270
Rents of Letter Boxes	261

There was a fall of £P.1,754 in the receipts from foreign Parcel Post which may be attributed to interference with business activities during the period of the disturbances.

3. *Expenditure.*

Expenditure amounted to £P.342,580 compared with £P.288,290 in 1935 and £P.206,082 in 1934.

The principal increases were as follows:-

	£P.
Personal Emoluments	30,484
Lighting and Heating	2,074
Stationery and Printing	4,076
Maintenance Stores	3,888
Rents and Repairs of Buildings	3,539
Renewals Fund	8,780

The increase under Personal Emoluments was due to additional personnel and increments; that for Stationery and Printing was necessitated largely by the need of replenishing reserve stocks which had become unduly depleted by the sudden and unexpectedly large increases in consumption during the two years immediately preceding.

In consequence of the fact that payments for the conveyance of mails outside Palestine had been made during the year 1935 in respect of previous years as well as for that year itself, there was an apparent decrease of £P.13,979 in the cost of the conveyance of mails in 1936.

4. *Surplus.*

The surplus of revenue over expenditure was £P.107,876 compared with £P.120,883 in 1935.

The fall in the amount of the surplus as compared with that of the preceding year is attributable wholly to the Broadcasting Service which was inaugurated in March 1936; expenditure on this service was considerably in excess of the receipts from the sale of Wireless Receiving Licences, which form the only source of direct revenue.

The value of free services rendered to other Government Departments was £P.11,071.

POSTS.

5. *Inland Mails.*

With the exception of the period of the disturbances, the inland mail services generally were maintained with regularity and in conformity with schedule.

During the strike considerable delays and interruptions principally due to sabotage on the railways and restricted road and rail services generally were at times unavoidable. In spite of these handicaps, however, mails between the principal towns, though not so frequent as in normal times, were exchanged several times daily, and there were no serious delays.

6. *Trans-Desert Mail.*

Bad weather in the closing months of the year interfered on several occasions with the expeditious transportation of the overland mails to Iraq.

7. *Overseas Mails Inwards.*

The port of Jaffa was closed during the disturbances and it was necessary to disembark at Haifa the European mails arriving by the direct Trieste-Bridisi-Palestine Service. This arrangement was still maintained at the end of the year as the Company had not resumed the use of Jaffa as a port of call for the mail steamers.

8. *Air Mails.*

The popularity of the air mail service continued, and during the summer the use of the machines of the Dutch (K.L.M.) Service to Europe and to the East was resumed. This additional service afforded the public the benefit of five air mails a week to Europe and beyond, and three air mails a week to India, Malaya, etc.

The air service of the Misr Company having been extended to Iraq, air mails for that country are now made up daily.

The total weight of air mails for all destinations conveyed from Palestine increased from 25,041 kilogrammes in 1935 to 32,244 kilogrammes in 1936, an increase of 28.77%.

9. *Parcel Mails.*

Parcel mails generally shewed a decline compared with the previous year.

10. *Registered and Insured Correspondence.*

There was an increase in the use of registration and insurance facilities. Notwithstanding that increase, however, the sum of £P.60.204 mils only was paid as compensation for loss or damage.

11. *Returned Letter Office.*

This Office dealt with 512,187 items of which 252,018 were returned to the senders. The total of undeliverable items represents, however, a substantial decrease as compared with 1935. Almost half of the items dealt with were letters and postcards, and the remainder consisted mainly of printed and similar matter. Over 36,600 of the items were registered.

The value of articles found in undeliverable correspondence was £P.2,925.633, of which £P.2,158.885 mils was represented by cheques and bills of exchange. The value of articles, other than cheques and bills of exchange returned to the senders amounted to £P.680.263 mils whilst the balance of £P.86.485 mils remained unclaimed, or undelivered owing to inadequate address. Of the total of £P.2,158.885 mils of cheques and bills of exchange, a sum of £P.1,162.822 mils was returned to the senders whilst the balance remained unreturned owing to inadequate address also.

12. *New Post Offices and Postal Agencies.*

Additional Branch Post Offices were opened at Herzl Street, Tel Aviv, Rehavia, Jerusalem, and Talavera Barracks, Jerusalem, whilst the Postal Agencies at Shekhunat Borokhov, Qiryat Haim, Magdiel, Tel Mond and Metulla were converted to Post Offices.

Postal Agencies were established at Gedera, Givat Brenner, Nahalat Yehuda, Beit Vegan and Kefar Vitkin.

13. *Postage Stamp Vendors.*

The number of licensed postage stamp vendors was 243 at the end of the year, an increase of 43 as compared with 1935.

14. *Total Cash Transactions.*

The total value of cash transactions during the year was £P.1,783,113.

15. *Postage Stamp Booklets. Air Mail Label Booklets.*

The sale of booklets containing postage stamps was resumed and has proved popular. Air mail labels in booklet form are also issued.

16. *Prepayment of Customs Dues on Parcels.*

A service whereby the sender of a parcel may make a deposit of cash to ensure the delivery of a parcel free of all charges to the addressee was introduced reciprocally with the United Kingdom. As the introduction of the service occurred late in the year only very brief experience of its working has been obtained.

TELEGRAPHS.

17. *Traffic.*

There was a fall of approximately 5% in the number of telegrams transmitted during the year, i.e. 482,886 in 1936 as compared with 508,332 in 1935.

Notwithstanding this reduction, however, the telegraph revenue increased from £P.26,196 in 1935 to £P.27,466 in 1936.

18. *Telegrams in Arabic and Hebrew script.*

The acceptance and delivery of telegrams written in Arabic characters was introduced at Rosh Pinna and the acceptance and delivery of telegrams in Hebrew characters was extended to Benei Beraq, Nes Tsiyona and Ahuzat Sir Herbert Samuel.

TELEPHONES.

19. There was a reduction in the demand for telephone service during the period of the disturbances but the number of applications did not fall below 75 during any one month. The previous rate of application was resumed almost immediately after the disturbances had ceased.

20. During the year, 1537 additional exchange lines were installed and 325 recovered representing a net increase of 1212 lines. The subscribers' stations increased by 2099. In addition, about 500 telephone stations were provided for H. M.'s Forces and in connection with security measures.

21. At the beginning of the year, the number of applicants on the waiting list was 1641. In spite of the large number of further applications which was received, the list had been reduced to 1144 by the end of the year.

22. A temporary manual exchange equipped for 2400 subscribers was installed in Jerusalem and was brought into use on the 26th June. This replaced the old exchange in the Post Office and enabled 468 additional exchange lines to be connected by the end of the year.

The building of the new General Post Office was delayed for over six months by the strike; the installation of the new automatic exchange will, it is hoped, be completed by the end of 1937.

23. A temporary manual exchange equipped for 1200 subscribers was opened in Tel Aviv on the 24th July. This exchange has provided service for new subscribers and for a number of those who were previously connected to Jaffa, thus reducing the congestion in the cables between the two towns. 439 additional lines have been connected since the new exchange was opened.

24. *Trunk Circuits.*

A number of additional trunk circuits was provided on routes serving the smaller exchanges.

25. *Revenue and Traffic.*

Telephone revenue increased from £P.146,099 in 1935 to £P.165,141 in 1936.

Local calls increased from 28,735,257 to 30,992,423 and trunk calls from 1,497,256 to 1,870,490. Of the trunk calls 1,814,983 were internal and 55,507 international.

26. *New Exchanges.*

New exchanges were established at Gedera, Kefar Vitkin and Haifa Bay. In the latter case a new automatic exchange with a capacity for 100 subscribers was installed. This will serve an area from which hitherto telephones were connected to Haifa by long and expensive lines. An exchange of 100 line capacity was provided at the Levant Fair in the spring.

27. *Conversions to Automatic Working.*

Automatic exchanges were provided in replacement of manual exchanges at Ramat Gan and Petah Tiqva. The existing automatic exchange at Rehovot was replaced by one of a larger capacity and more up-to-date pattern.

28. *Provision of Continuous Service.*

During the year, continuous service was provided at Rosh Pinna, Samakh and Zikhron Ya'aqov exchanges where attendance had previously been limited to the day. At Rishon-le-Tsiyon exchange the hours of attendance were extended to include Saturday, providing thereby a continuous service also.

29. *Overseas Radio-telephone Service.*

The Overseas Radio-telephone Service was extended to places in the Irish Free State not previously available, Iceland, Tasmania, R.M.S. "Queen Mary" and Windhoek in South Africa.

ENGINEERING.

30. The year was notable for the extent of the work necessitated by sabotage during the disturbances, and by the large arrears of telephone installation work throughout the country. In spite of the difficulties caused by the disturbances, development proceeded at a rapid rate. The distribution cable systems in the principal towns were considerably augmented. Trunk entry cables were also provided in a number of cases. In Gaza, Hebron and Tiberias aerial cables were extensively erected.

The route length of underground cables was increased during the year from 30 kilometres to over 56 kilometres. This cabling now represents a total single wire length of 27,974 kilometres, as compared with 13,403 kilometres at the commencement of the year, an increase of 100%.

31. *Automatic Exchanges.*

As a result of the disturbances and the consequent delay in the erection of buildings, the installation of the automatic exchanges for Jerusalem and Tel Aviv has not yet commenced. Automatic exchanges were installed at Petah Tiqva and Rehovot whilst the installation of six others was started.

32. *Reconstruction of Routes.*

Reconstruction work on trunk routes proceeded rapidly despite the interruption caused by the necessity of restoring routes wilfully damaged. Restoration was effected so expeditiously, however, that protracted interference with trunk communications was rarely experienced.

33. *Workshops.*

Switchboards rebuilt from the material recovered from the Jerusalem Magneto exchange which was taken out of service in June were made up for Safad, Hadera, Gaza and Nablus. This work has been rendered possible by the establishment in Jerusalem of workshops with an augmented staff of skilled

artisans. The staff were, moreover, extensively employed on construction and renovation work and overhauled a large number of telephones and considerable quantity of concomitant apparatus during the year. The assembly and repair of Wireless Community Receivers and studio equipment for the Broadcasting Service was also effected.

34. *Location and Suppression of Electrical Interference.*

185 cases of electrical interference with radio reception were dealt with during the year.

35. *Sinai Telegraph and Telephone Route.*

The fitting of oil insulators and the replacement of white-wood arms by oak ones continued during the year. In spite of abnormally adverse weather conditions for six months of the year, few faults were observed and no interruptions to communications occurred.

36. *Commercial Transmitters and Receivers.*

The erection at Ramallah of two 150 feet lattice masts, and the installation of four transmitters for Police, Civil Aviation and Marine purposes was begun in December. Preliminary work on the provision of commercial receivers at Lydda Airport was also begun.

BROADCASTING.

37. *Inauguration.*

The Broadcasting Service was inaugurated by the High Commissioner on the 30th March, 1936. Since that date regular transmissions for the five hours have been made daily.

38. *Tri-lingual Programmes.*

The programmes are tri-lingual, and are so arranged that an equal proportion of time is devoted to the English, Arabic and Hebrew interests.

39. *Development of Service.*

The development of the service at the outset was seriously handicapped by the disturbances, since the difficulties of travelling, especially by road, limited the field of selection of artists, speakers, and other performers to those resident in Jerusalem.

Notwithstanding these handicaps, however, remarkable progress was made and the service achieved considerable popularity. The number of licensed listeners, which in December 1935 was 12,175, had increased to 20,400 by the end of December 1936.

40. *Village Sets.*

Village receiving sets have been installed experimentally in 69 villages. Maintenance is provided at Government expense.

41. *Outside Broadcasts etc.*

Programmes of the British Broadcasting Corporation have been relayed, by means of the Rebroadcast Receiver on the Mount of Olives, on 44 occasions, while Outside Broadcasts (which numbered 81) have been a regular feature. On six occasions during the year Outside Broadcasts were specially provided for the British Broadcasting Corporation and American Broadcasting organisations. Several broadcasts were relayed from Palestine to the United States of America and to France.

Statistical tables are attached hereto.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	Public Service		Increase or Decrease	
	1935	1936	Increase	Decrease
	LP.	LP.	LP.	LP.
REVENUE				
Sale of Stamps	199,525	217,999	18,474	—
Commission on Money Orders	1,317	1,674	357	—
Postal Order Poundage	1,237	1,507	270	—
Foreign Parcel Post	16,332	14,578	—	1,754
Telegrams	26,196	27,466	1,270	—
Telephones	146,099	165,141	19,042	—
Rent of Letter Boxes	4,754	5,015	261	—
Maintenance of Lines in Sinai	2,986	3,098	112	—
Miscellaneous	4,569	3,478	—	1,091
Broadcast Licences Fees	6,158	10,473	4,315	—
Sale of Publications	—	27	27	—
TOTAL:—	409,173	450,456	44,128	2,845
EXPENDITURE				
All services Except Conveyance of Mails outside Palestine	232,230	300,499*	68,269	—
Conveyance of Mails outside Palestine	56,060	42,081	—	13,979
	288,290	342,580	68,269	13,979

* Includes the sum of LP. 28,780 in respect of Renewals Fund for 1936—37.

POSTAL ORDER AND MONEY ORDER STATISTICS

	1935	1936	Increase or Decrease per cent
Postal Orders issued (Palestine)			
Number	136209	164770	+ 21
Value	LP. 106,472	LP. 129,179	+ 21
Postal Orders issued (Imperial)			
Number	30498	38386	+ 26
Value	LP. 19,045	LP. 24,273	+ 27
Postal Orders paid (Palestine)			
Number	135077	163748	+ 21
Value	LP. 105,756	LP. 128,615	+ 22
Postal Orders paid (Imperial)			
Number	8564	12536	+ 46
Value	LP. 4,961	LP. 6,953	+ 40
Postal Orders paid (Egyptian)			
Number	6008	6995	+ 16
Value	LP. 5,343	LP. 6,271	+ 17
Postal Orders paid (Trans-Jordan)			
Number	3708	5229	+ 41
Value	LP. 3,039	LP. 4,331	+ 43
Money Orders, Inland, issued			
Number	12691	17803	+ 40
Value	LP. 126,774	LP. 169,288	+ 34
Money Orders, Foreign, issued			
Number	4768	5127	+ 8
Value	LP. 21,959	LP. 23,669	+ 8
Money Orders, Foreign, paid			
Number	56657	95065	+ 68
Value	LP. 103,979	LP. 138,300	+ 33

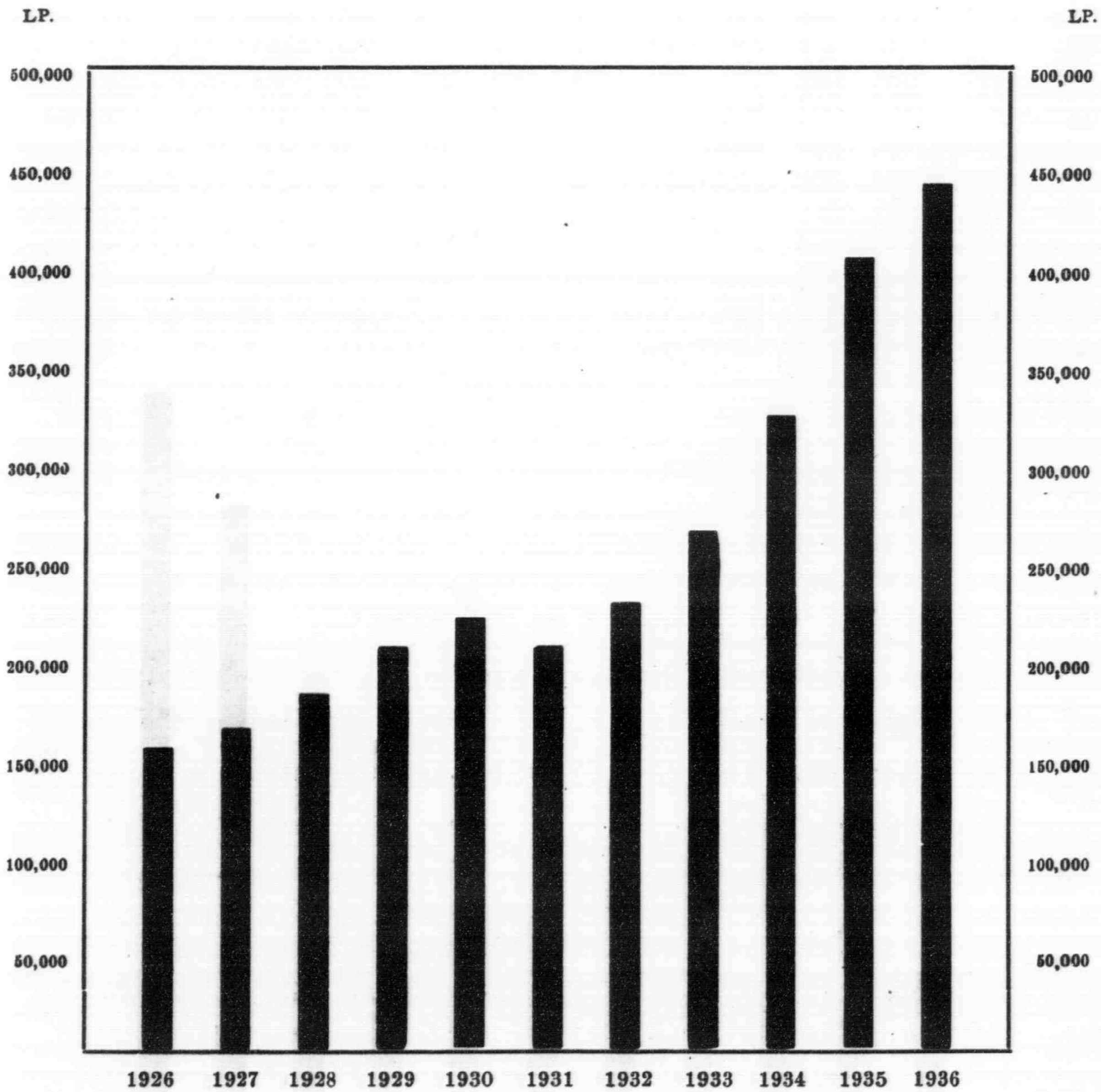
TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Item	1935	1936	Increase or Decrease per cent
Letters	28,960,950	33,736,968	+ 16
Post Cards	2,874,014	3,309,904	+ 15
Printed Matter & Samples	18,552,877	20,786,808	+ 12
Parcels Inland	46,648	63,096	+ 35
Air Mail Despatched, Total Weight	25,041 Kgs.	32,244 Kgs.	+ 29
Parcels, Foreign, Despatched	30,556	30,457	— 0.32
Parcels, Foreign, Received	127,742	110,193	— 14
Cash on Delivery Parcels (Foreign) Despatched	27	38	+ 41
Cash on Delivery Parcels (Foreign) Received	2,903	2,510	— 14
Cash on Delivery Parcels Inland, Posted	748	1,574	+ 110
Telegrams	508,332	482,886	— 5
Telephone Subscribers' Exchange Lines	5,829	7,041	+ 21
Telephones (Stations)	10,381	12,480	+ 20
Telephone Local Calls	28,735,257	30,992,423	+ 9
Telephone Trunk Calls	1,497,256	1,870,490	+ 25

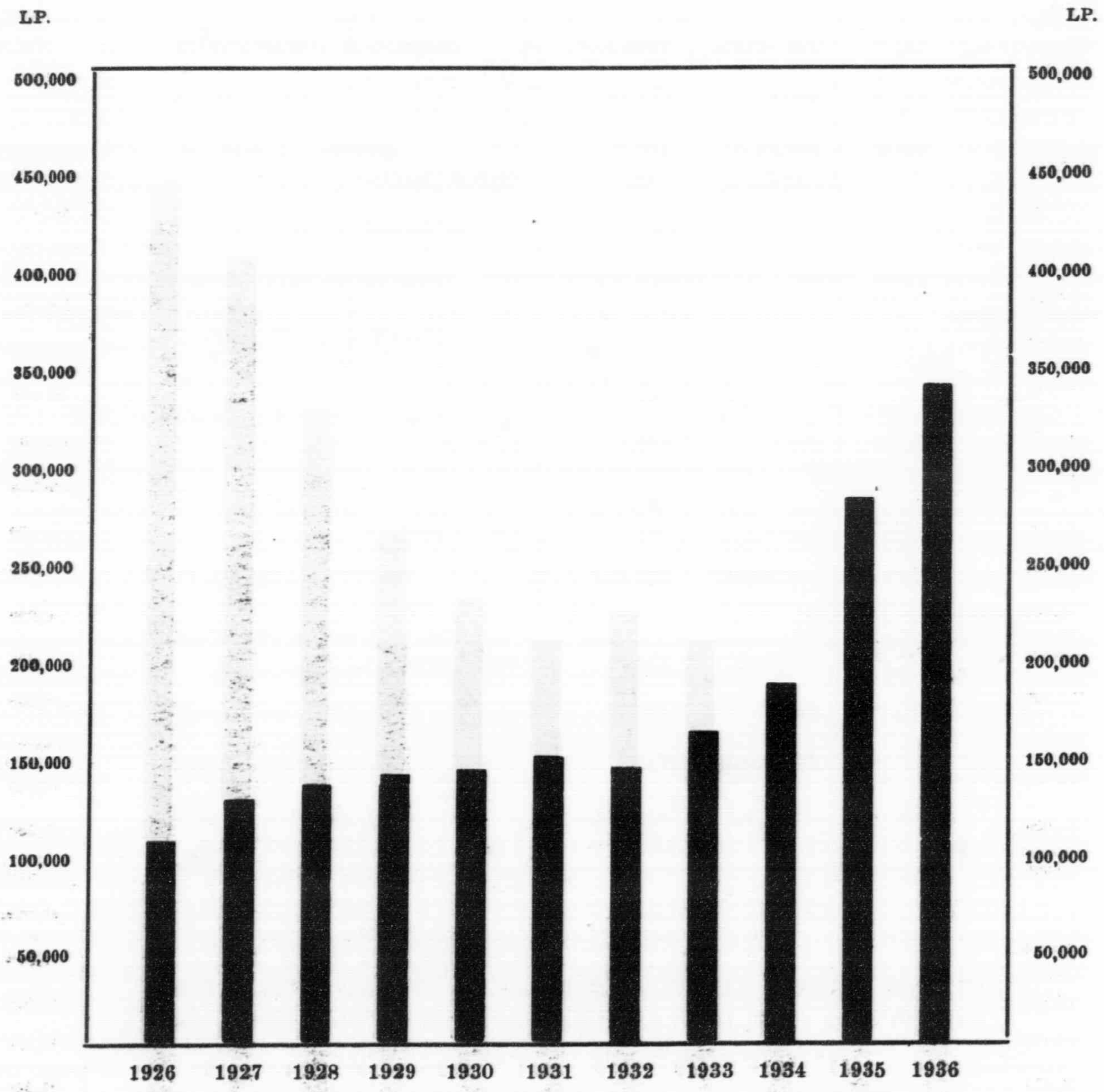
ESTIMATED VALUE OF FREE SERVICES RENDERED TO AND BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 1936 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1936.

	LP.
Rendered to Other Departments.	
Official Correspondence	7,939
Money Order Commission	1
Customs Services (5% of LP. 62,628)	3,131
	11,071

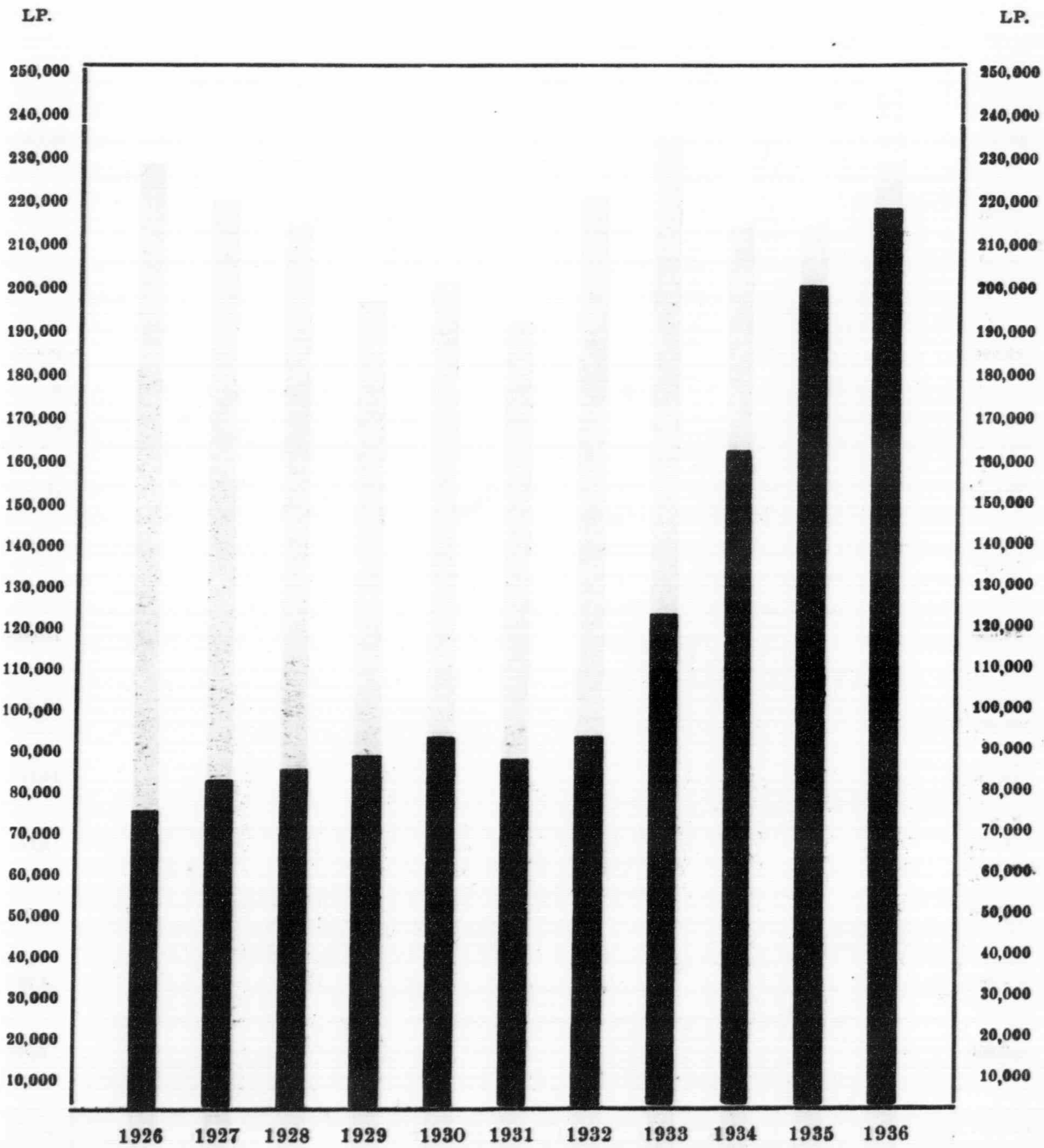
TOTAL CASH REVENUE.



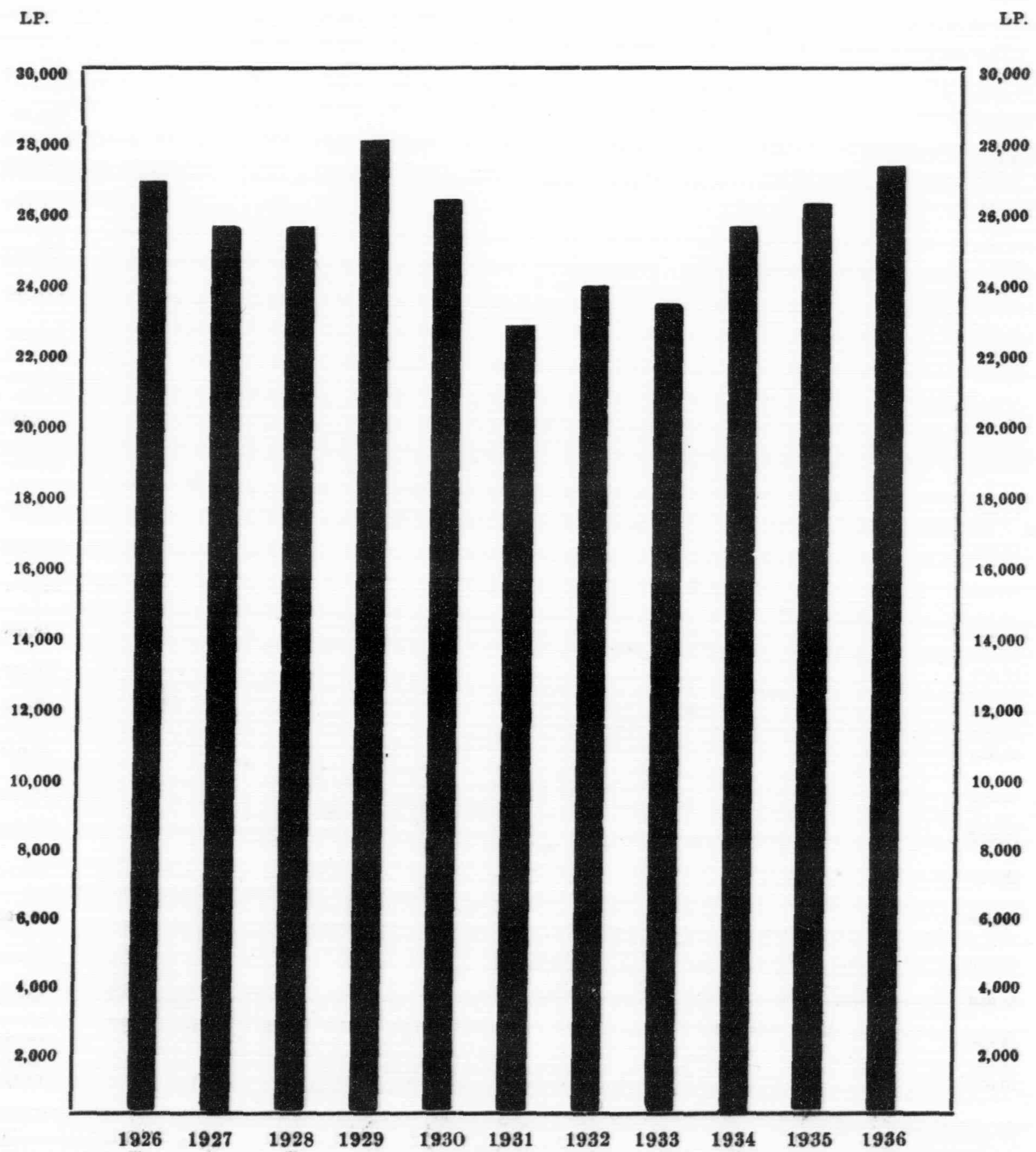
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.



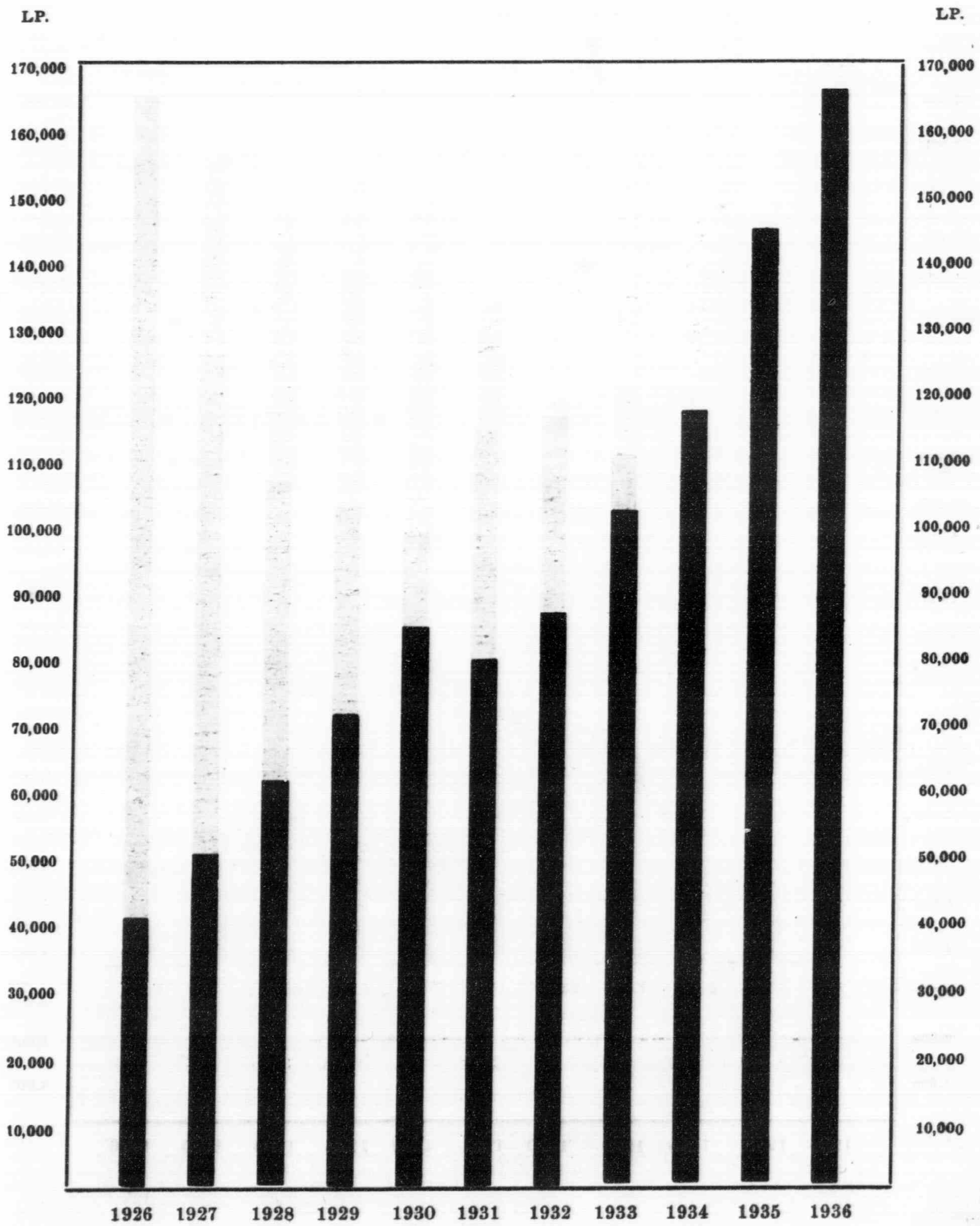
SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.



TELEGRAPH REVENUE.

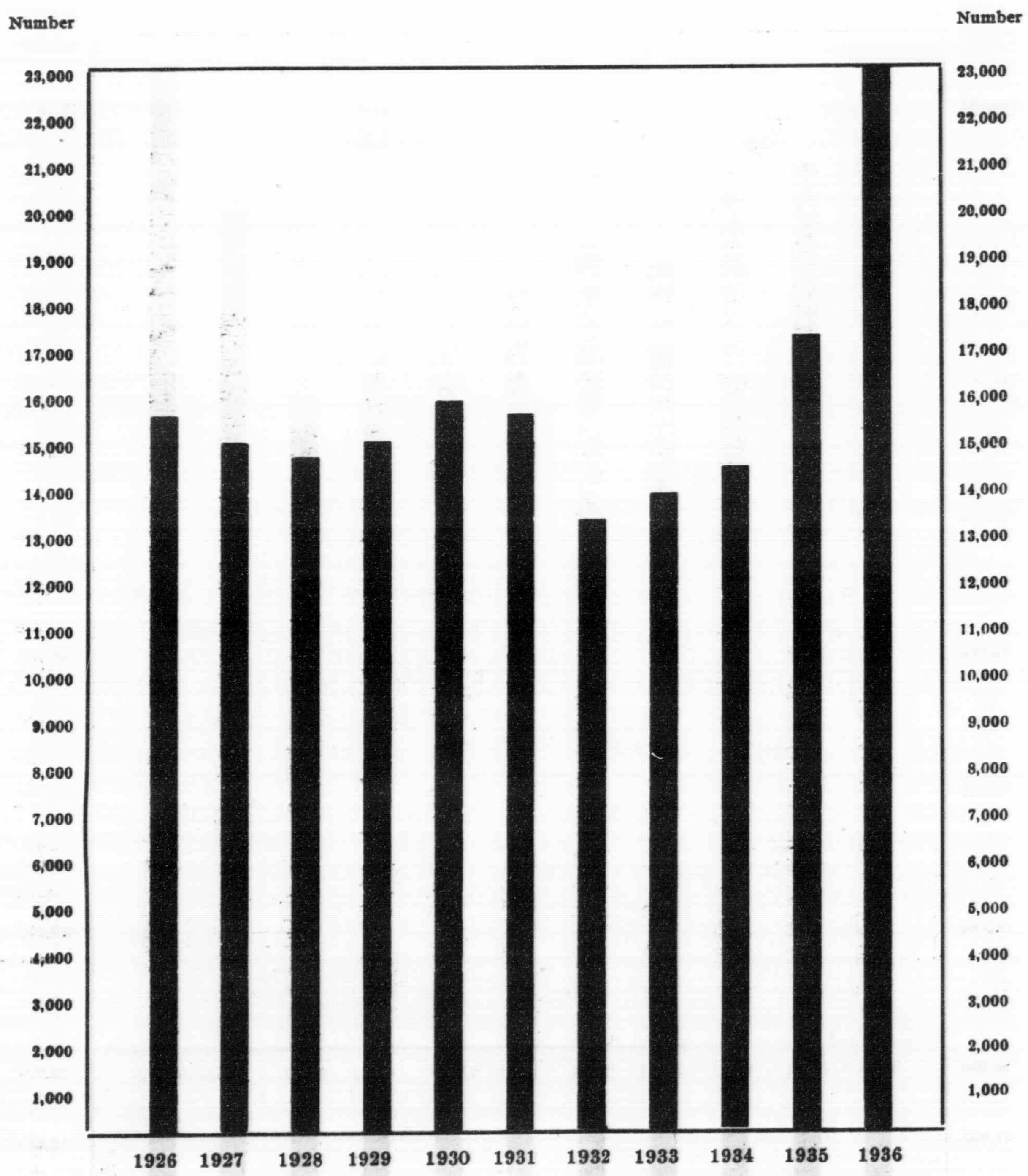


TELEPHONE REVENUE.

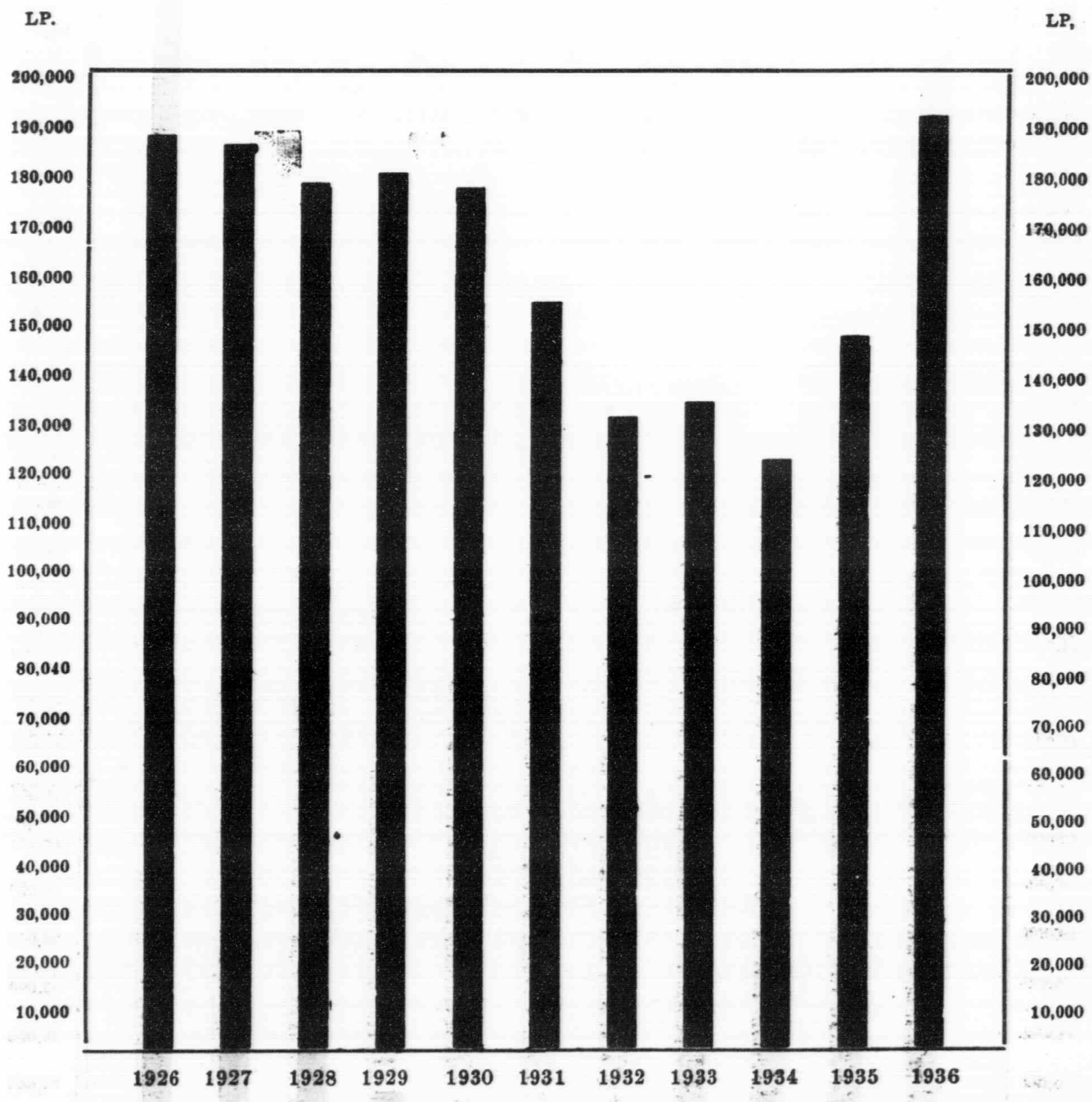


MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.

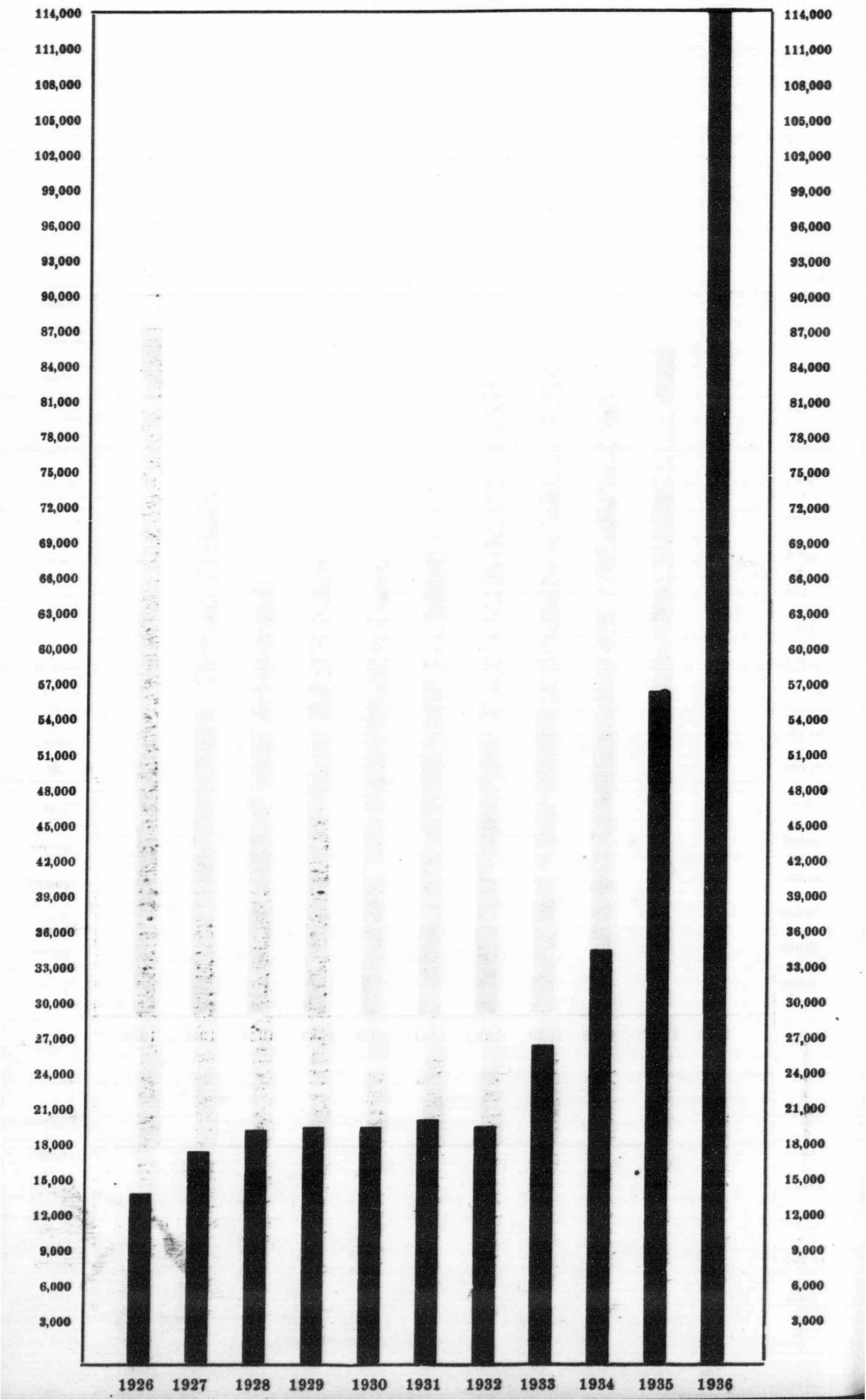
(Inland and Foreign).



VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.
(Inland and Foreign).

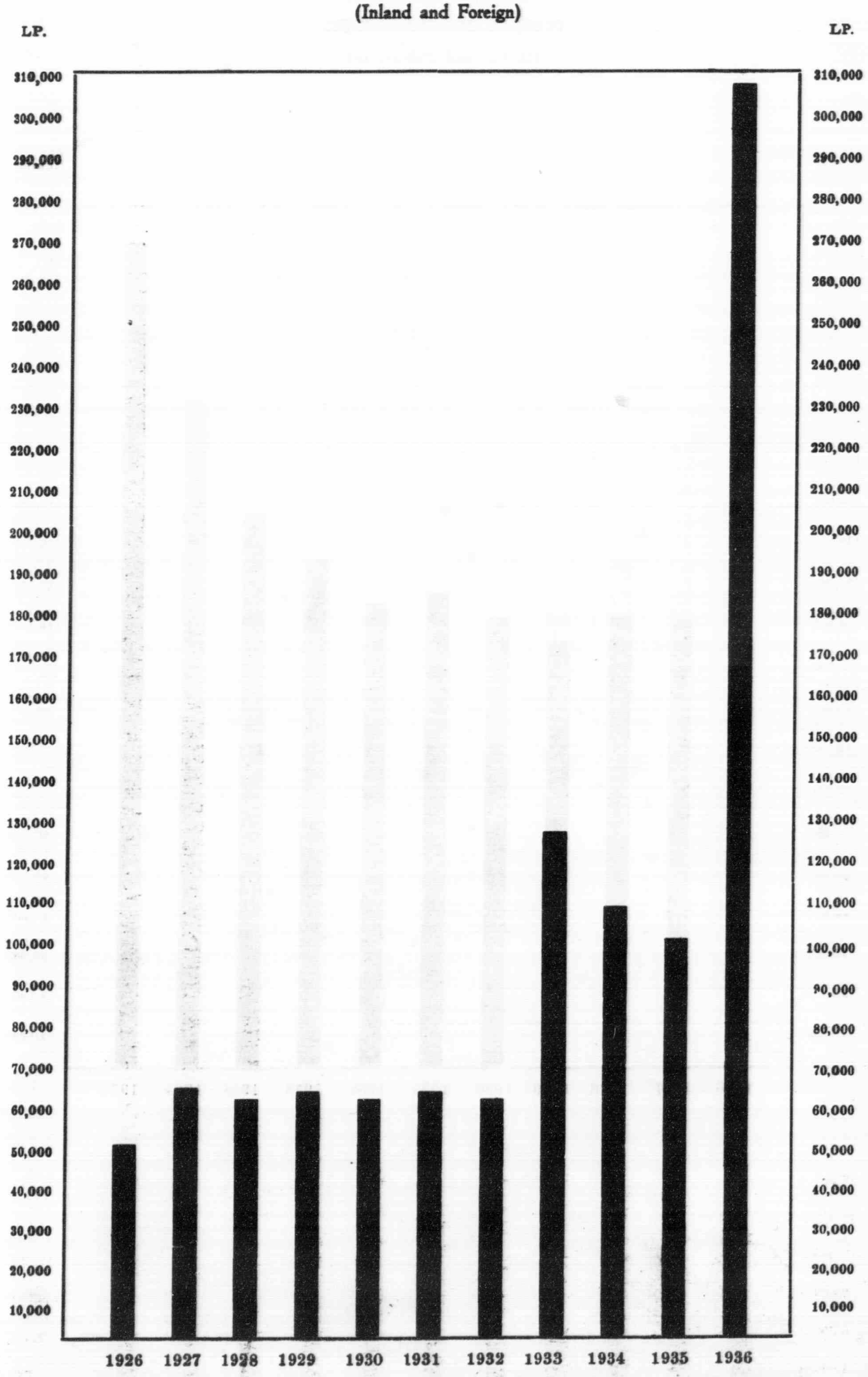


MONEY ORDERS PAID.
(Inland and Foreign)

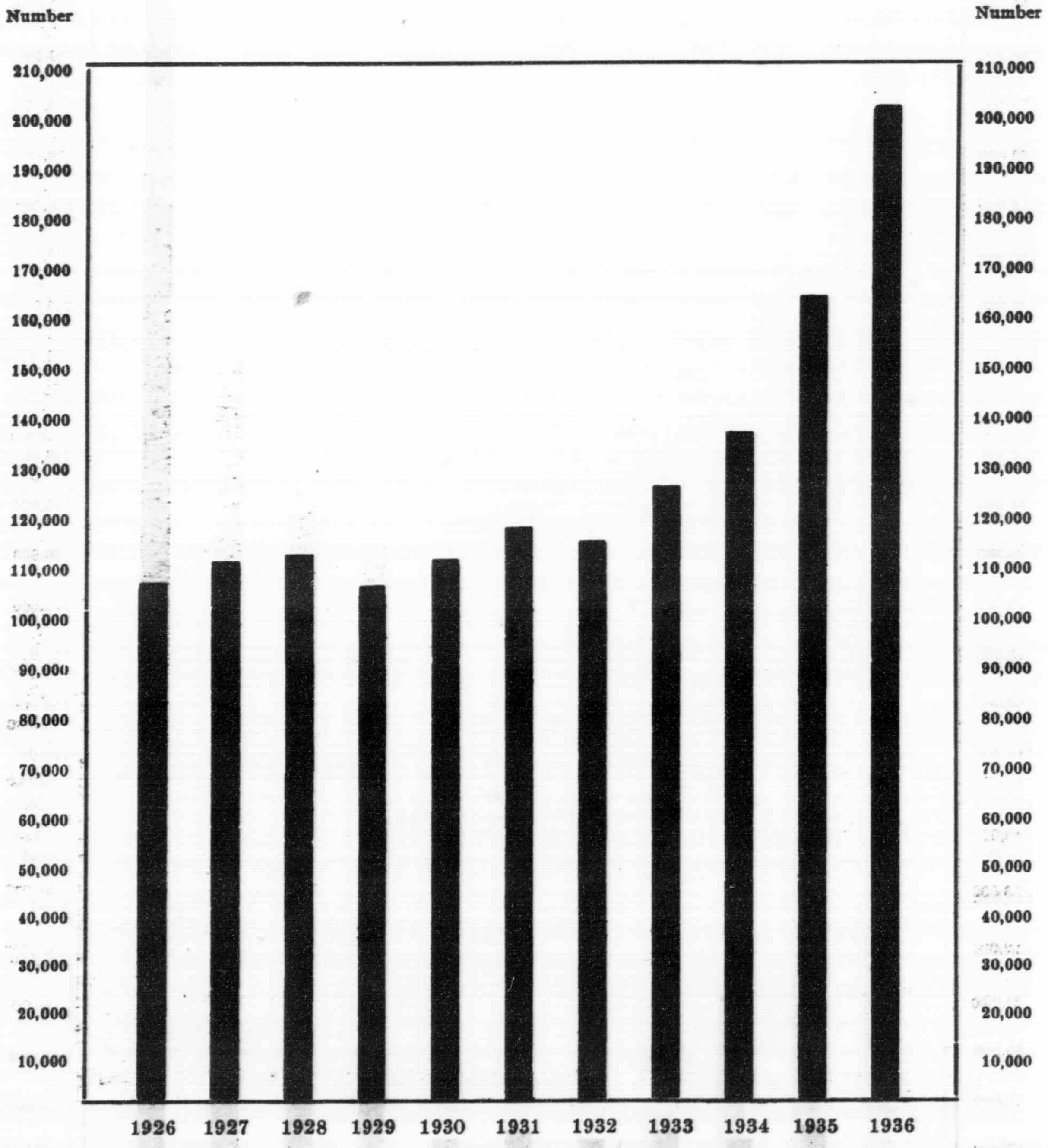


VALUE OF MONEY ORDERS PAID.

(Inland and Foreign)

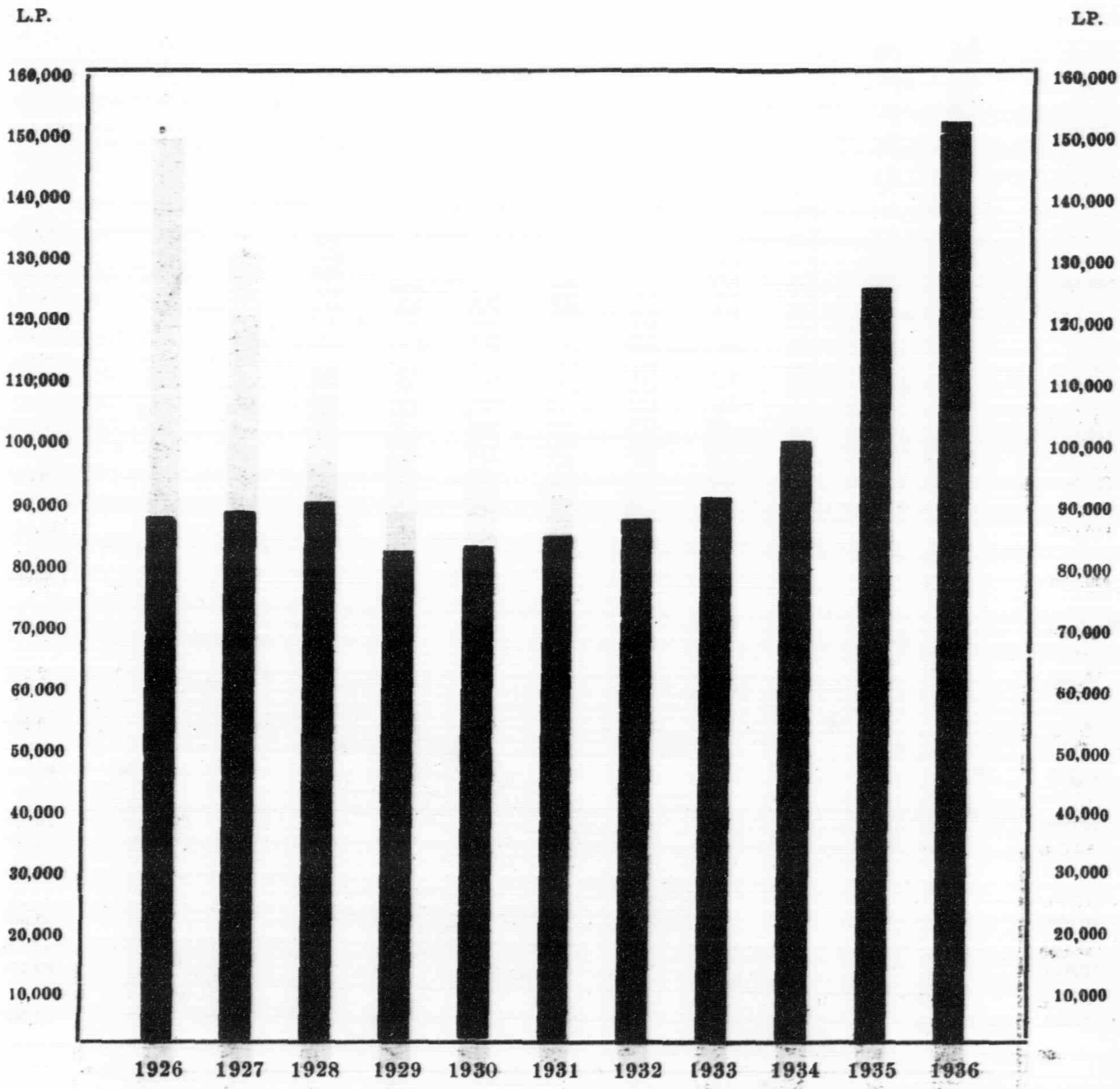


POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.
(British and Palestinian).



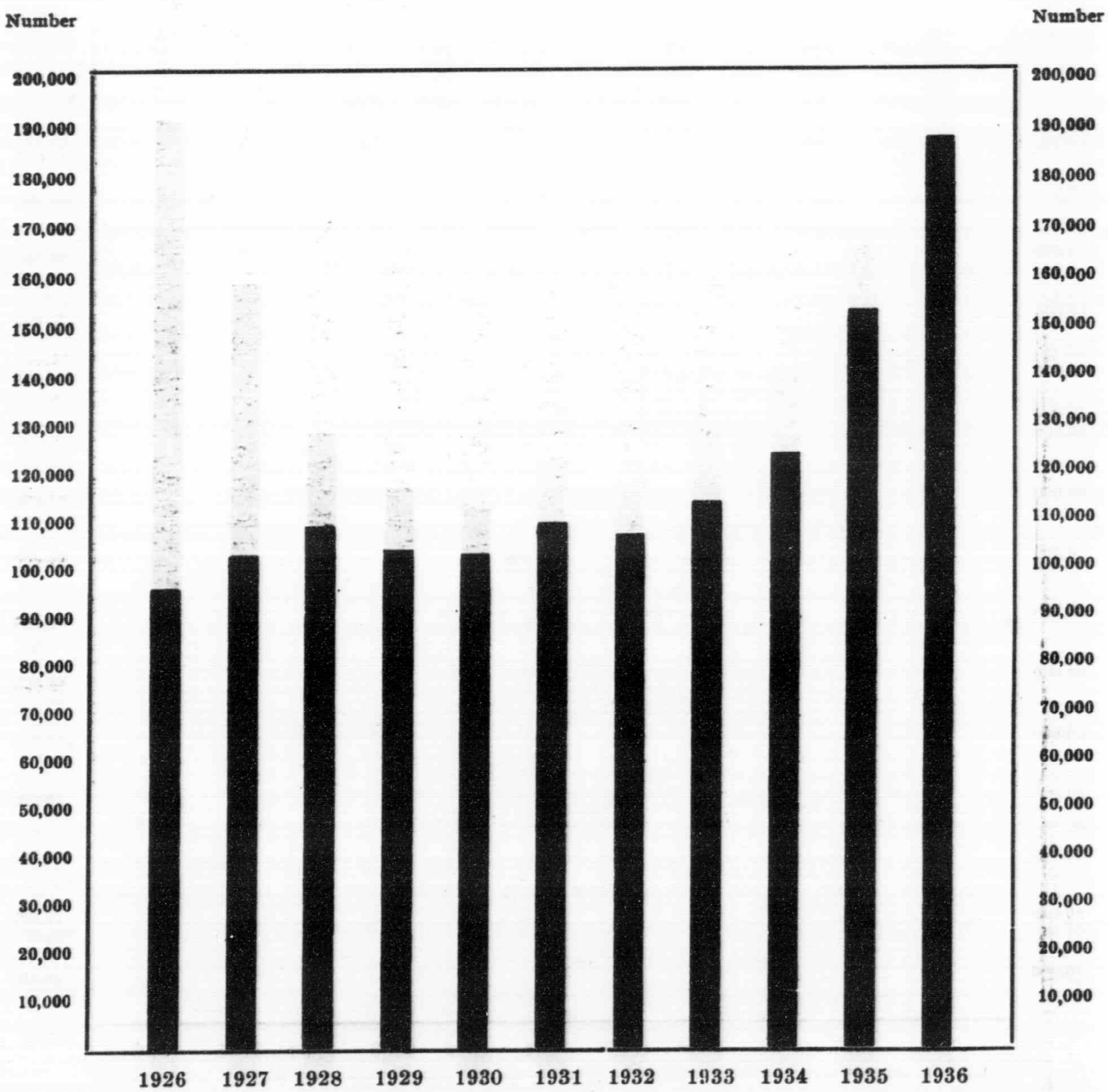
VALUE OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED.

(British and Palestinian Postal Orders).



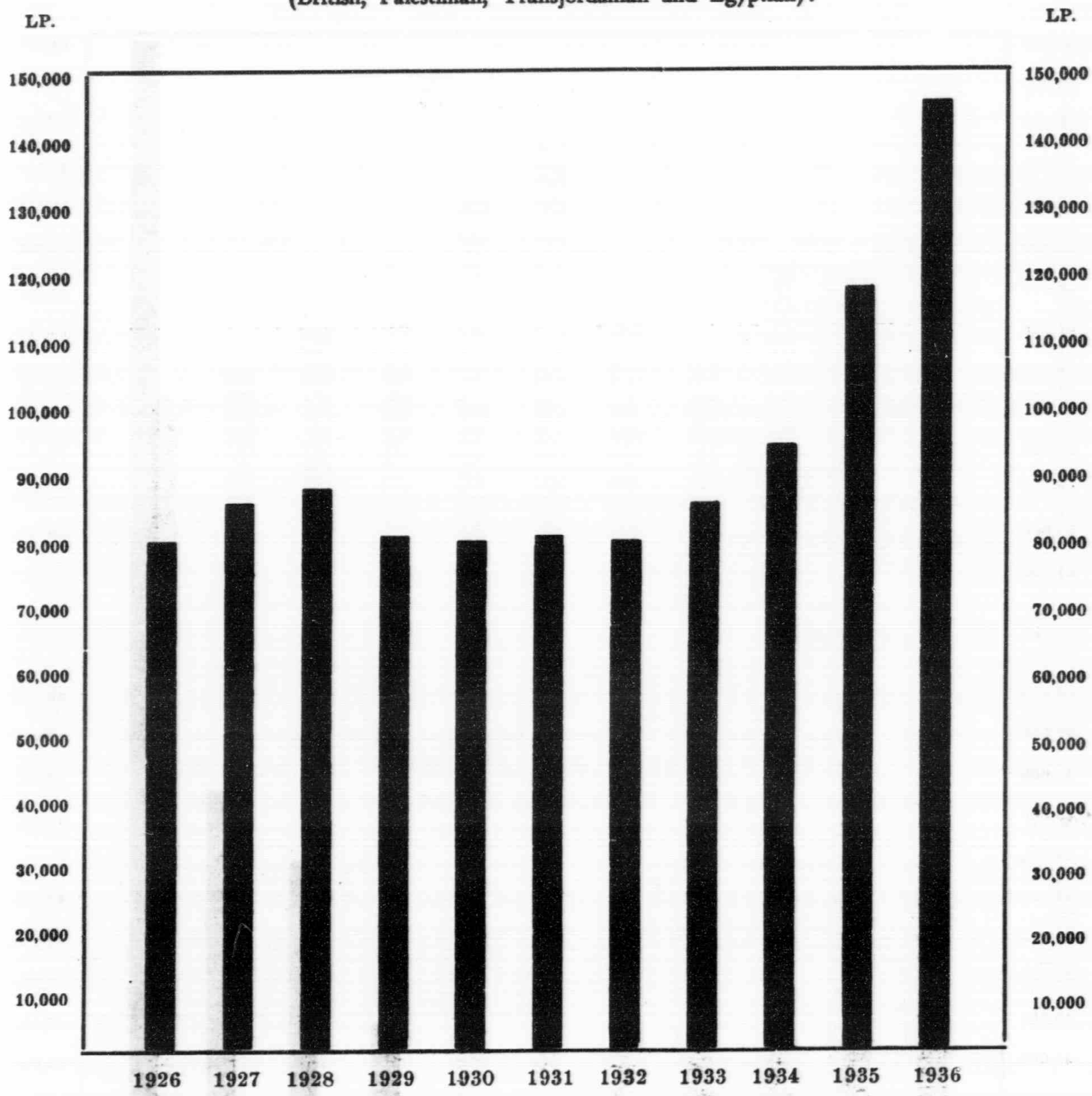
POSTAL ORDERS PAID.

(British, Palestinian, Transjordanian and Egyptian).

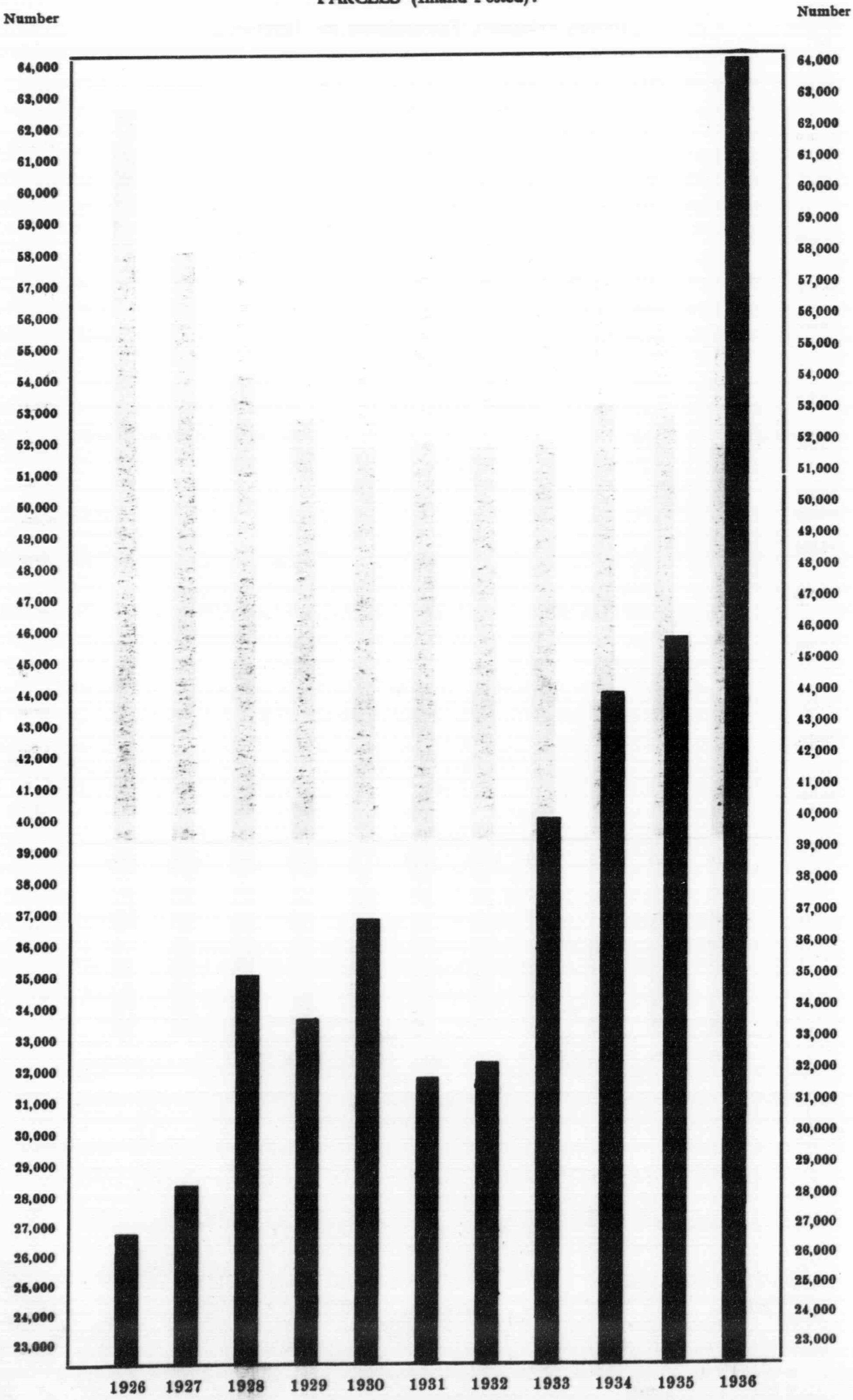


VALUE OF POSTAL ORDERS PAID.

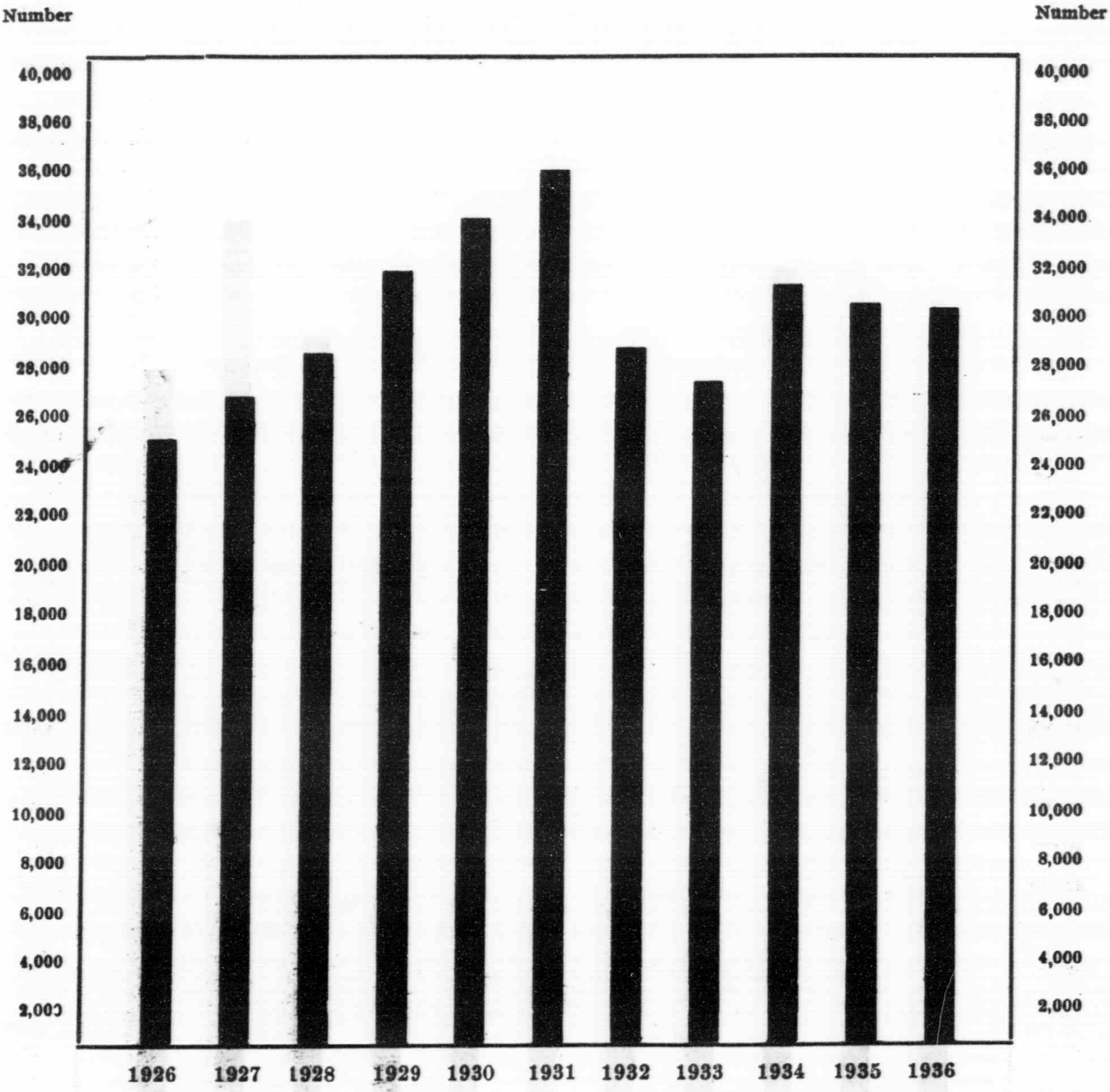
(British, Palestinian, Transjordanian and Egyptian).



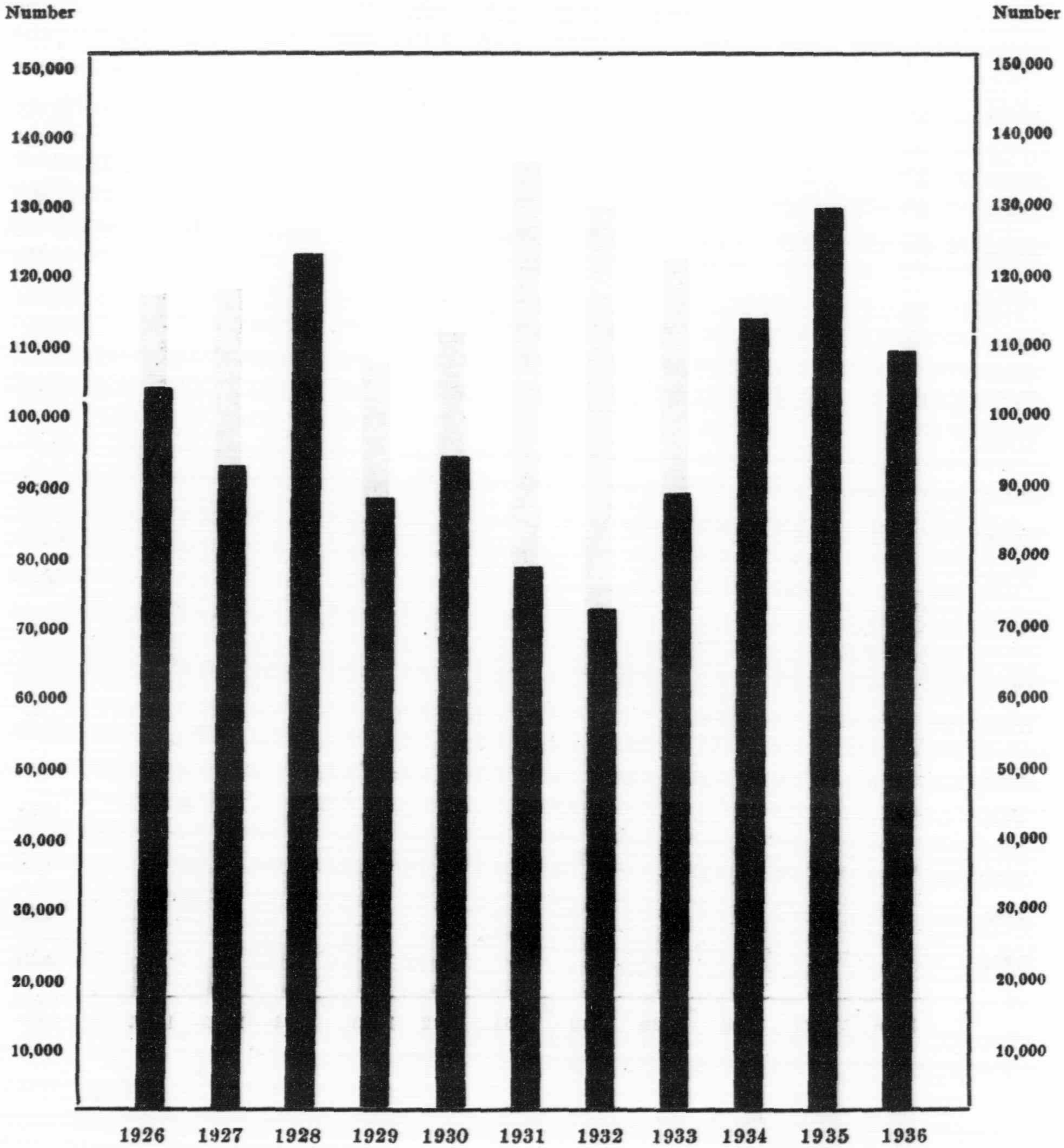
PARCELS (Inland Posted).



PARCELS (FOREIGN POSTED).

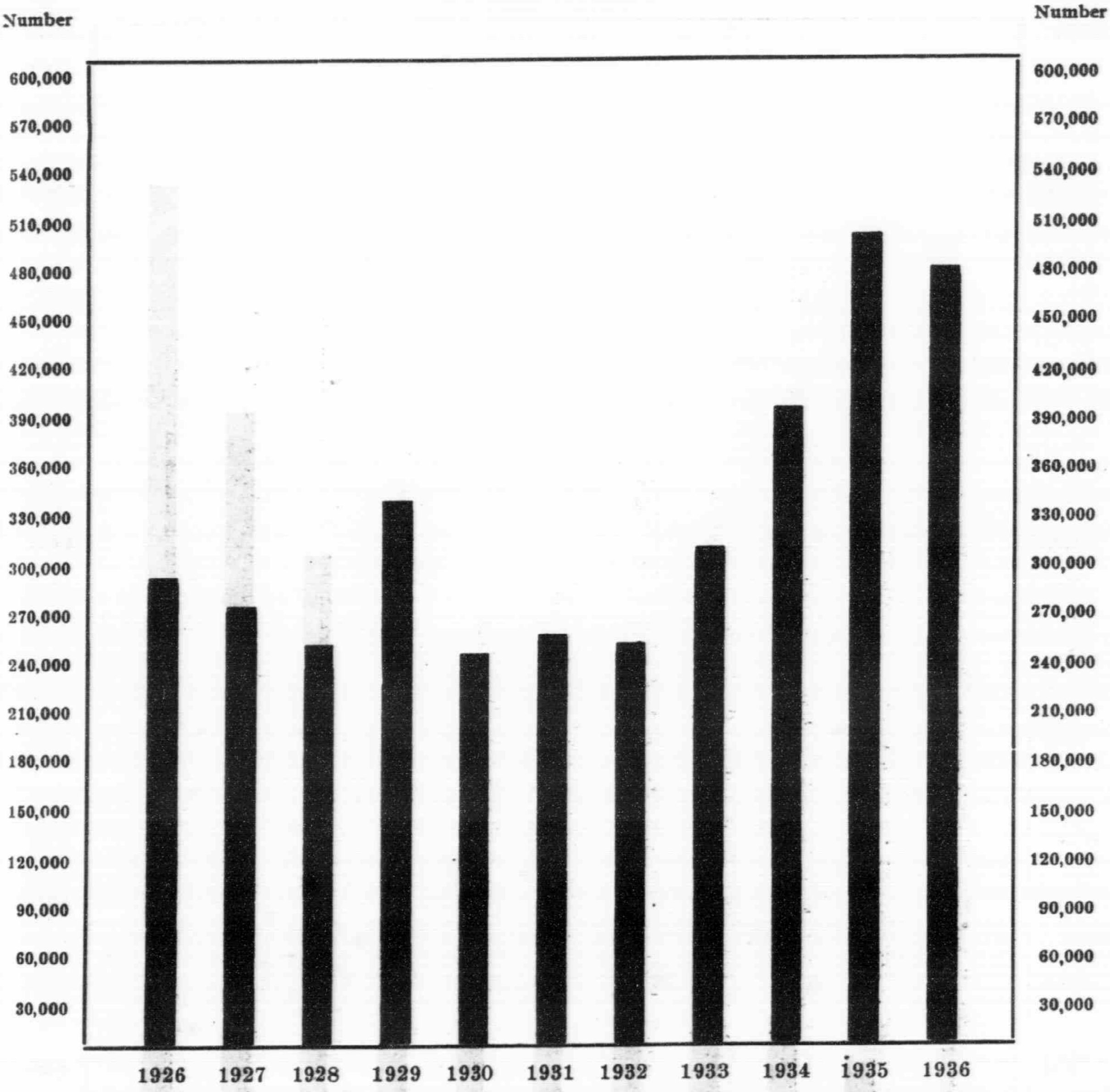


PARCELS (FOREIGN DELIVERED).

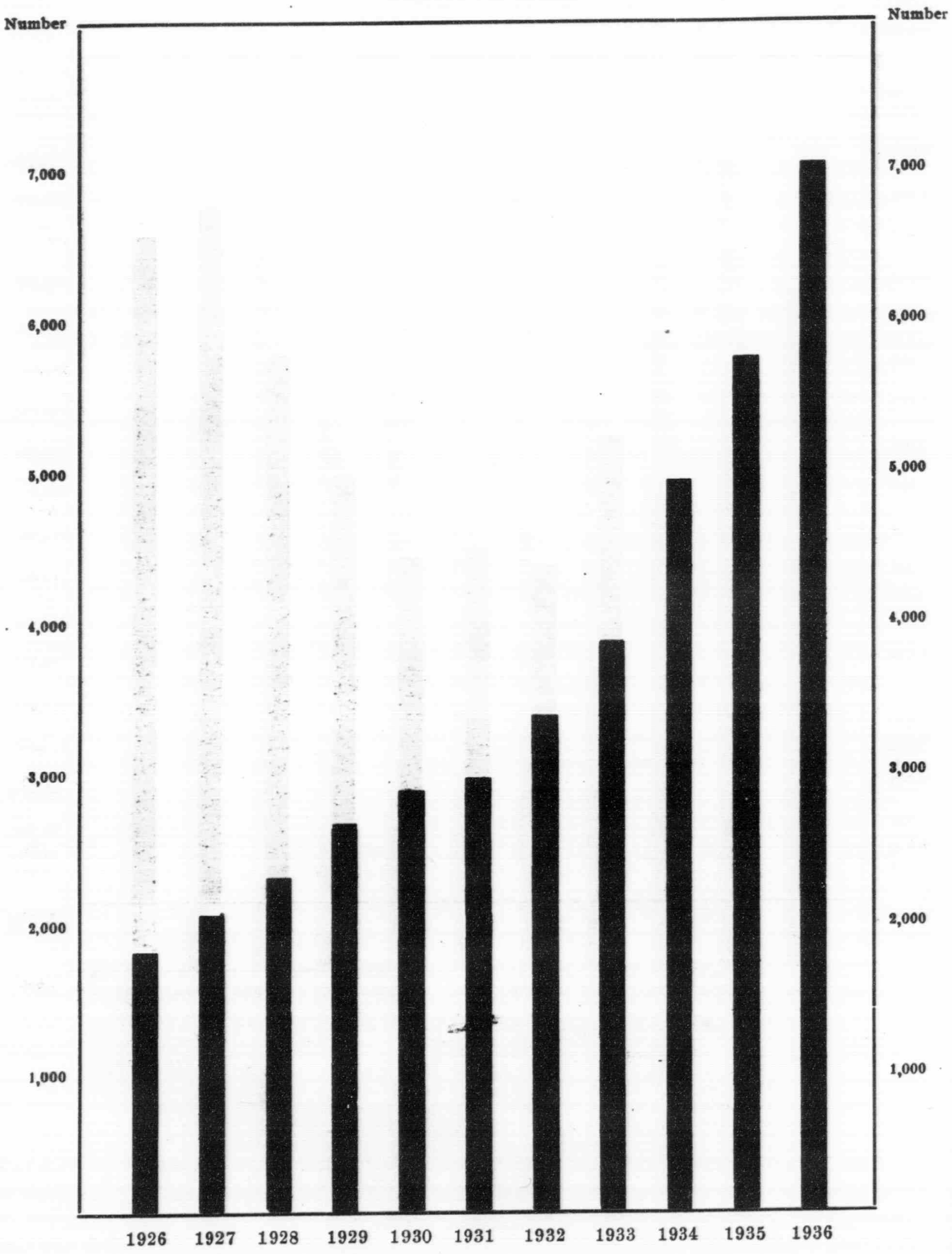


TELEGRAMS.

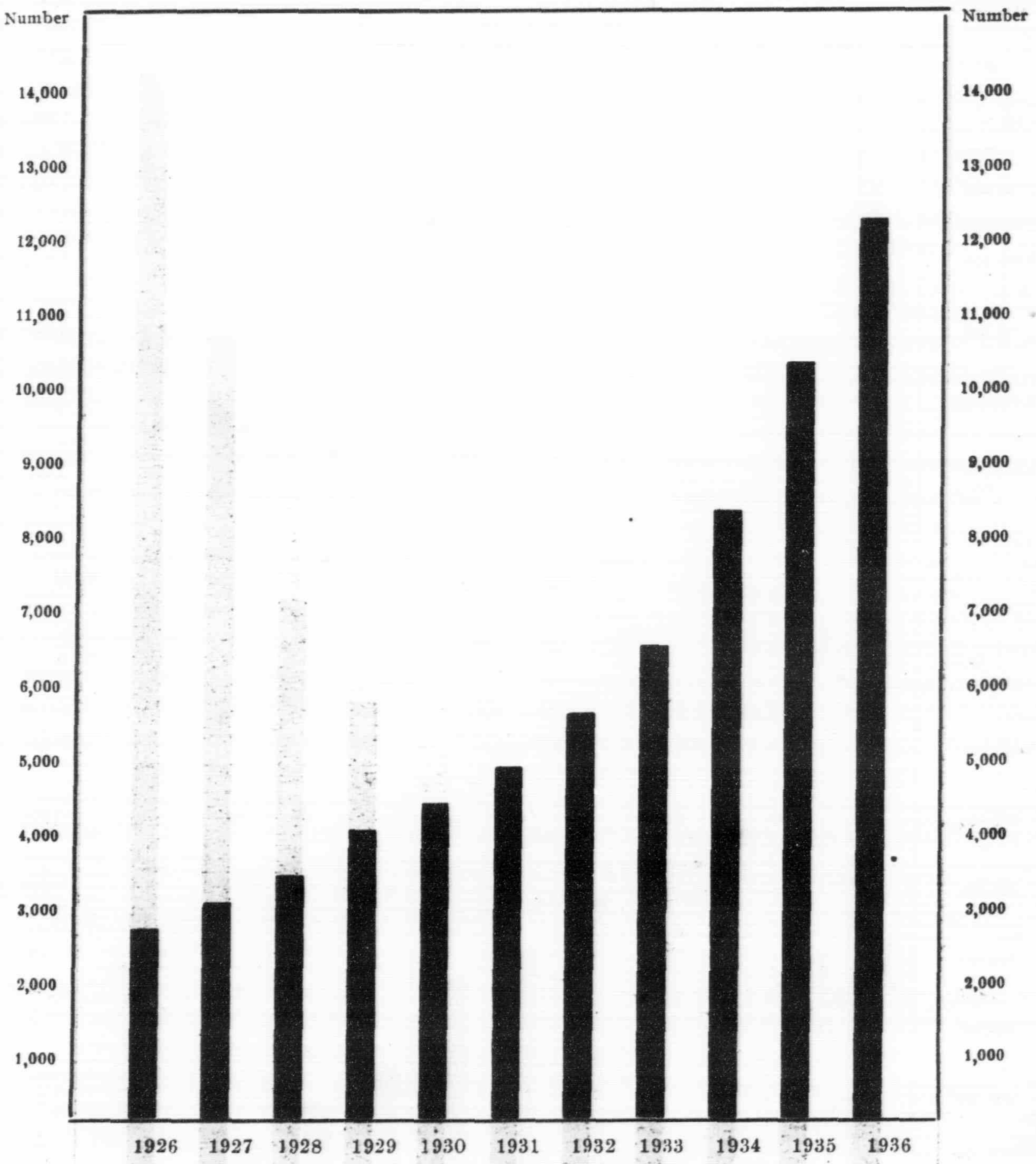
(Inland and Foreign).



TELEPHONE EXCHANGE LINES.

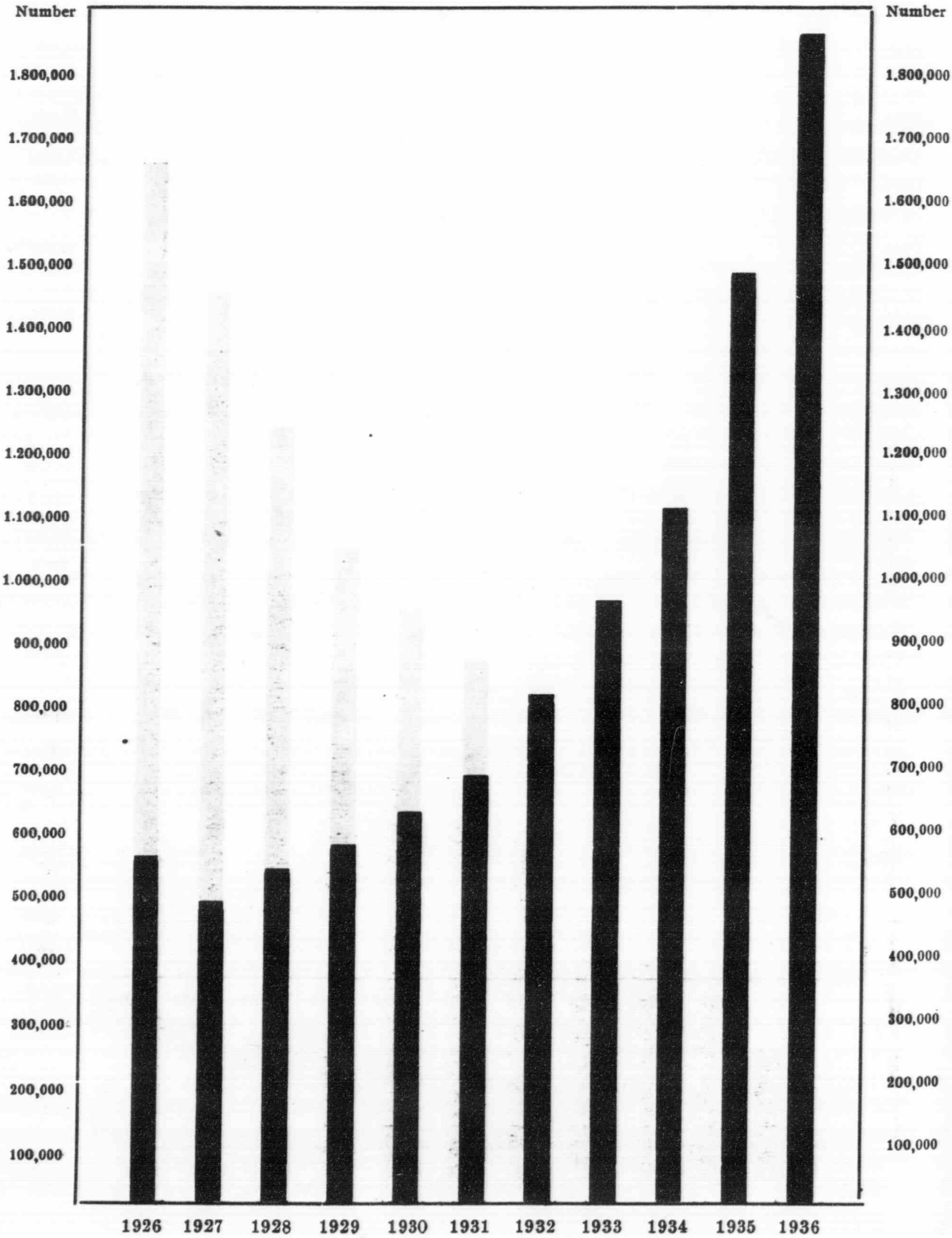


TELEPHONE STATIONS.

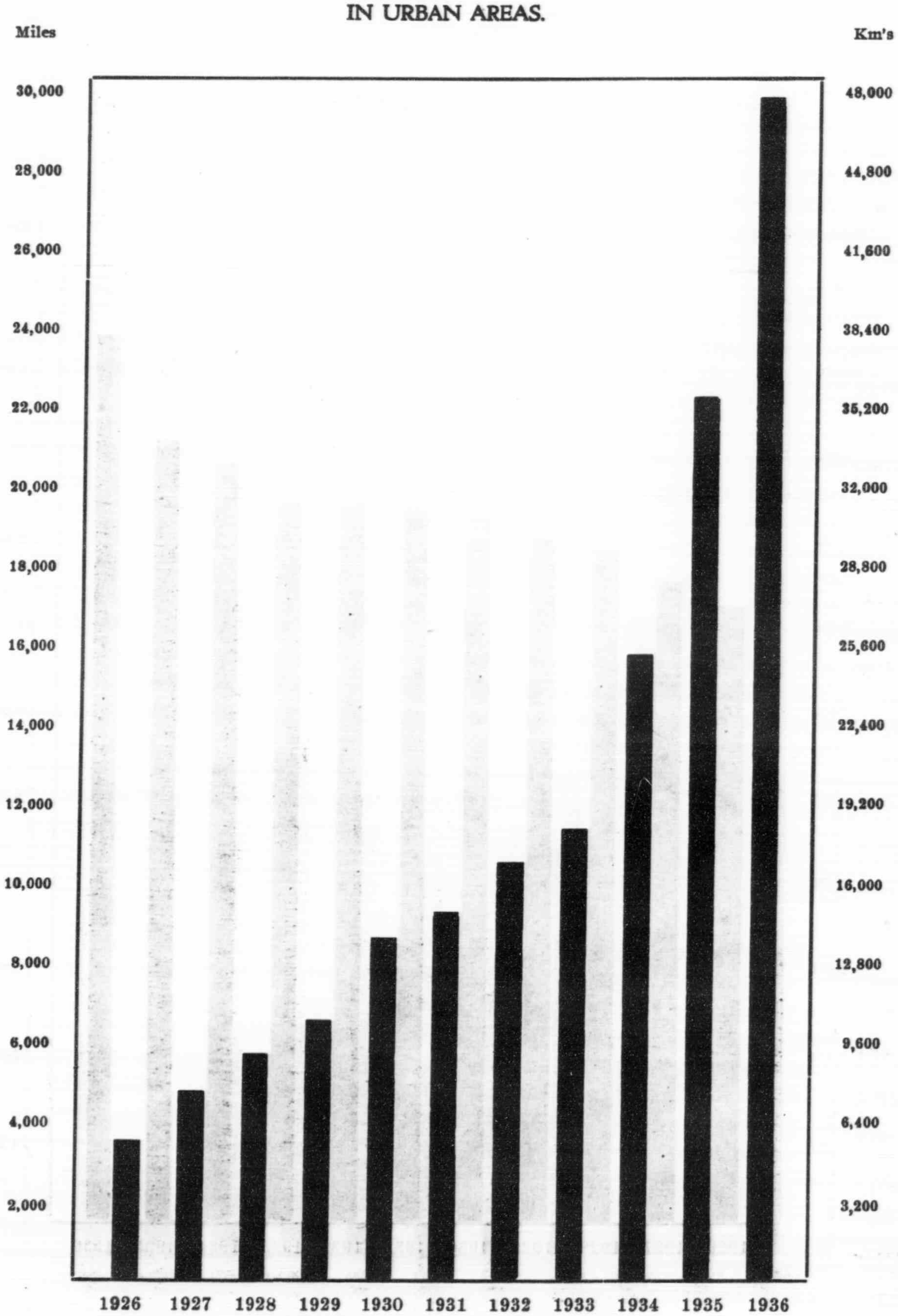


EFFECTIVE UNIT TRUNK CALLS.

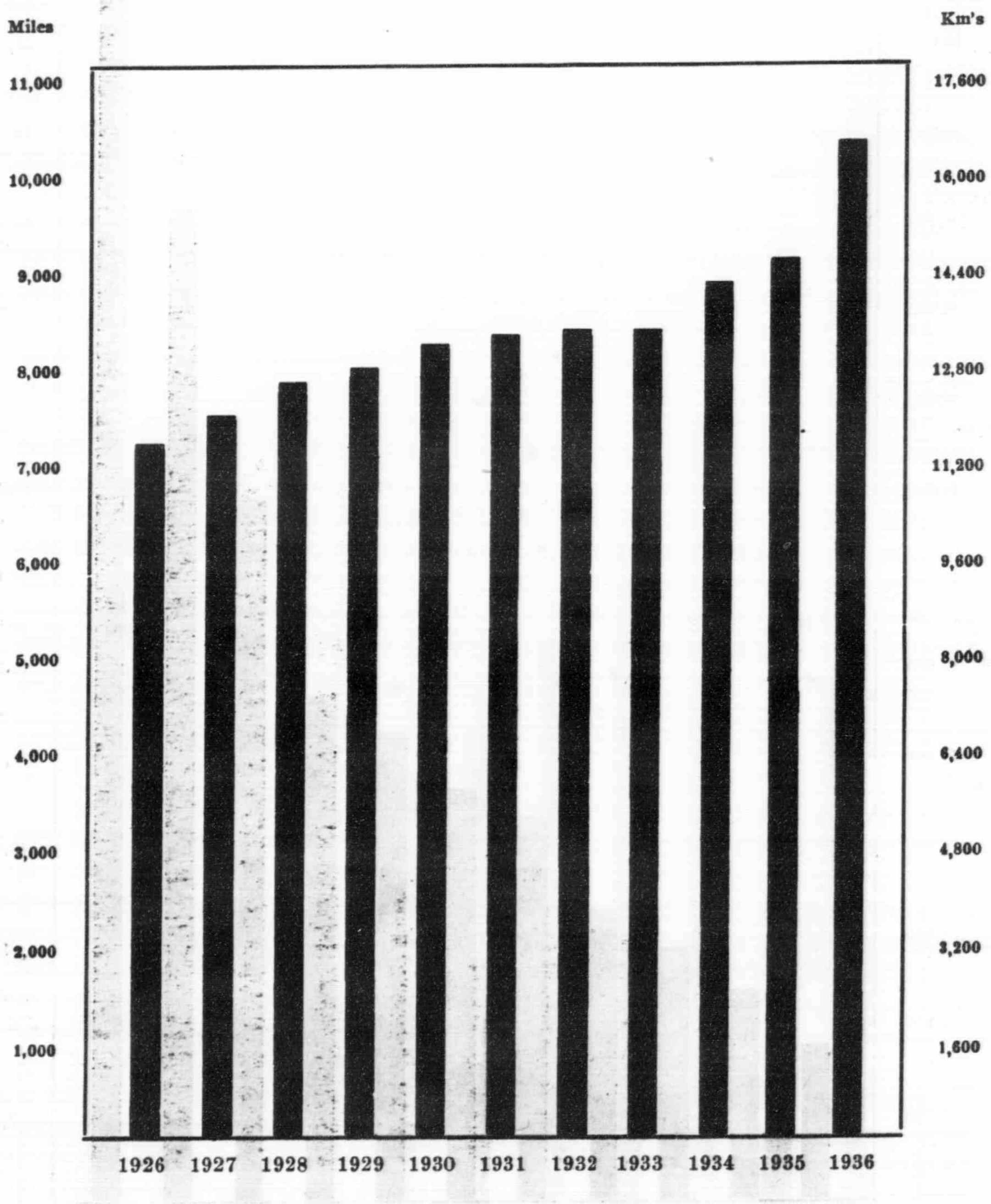
(Each Three Minutes Charged is Counted as One Unit Call).



LENGTH OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE WIRES IN URBAN AREAS.

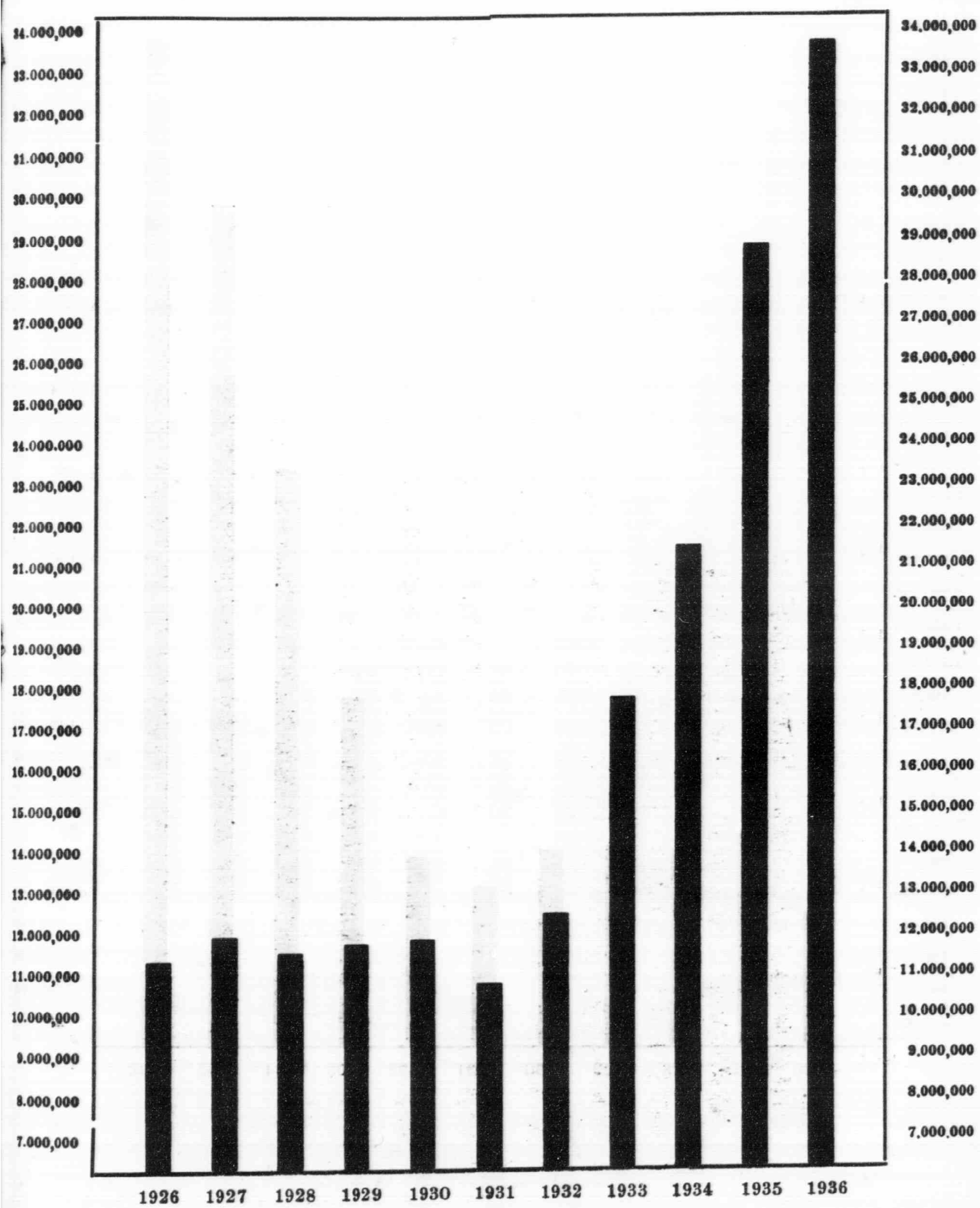


LENGTH OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE WIRES INTER-URBAN.



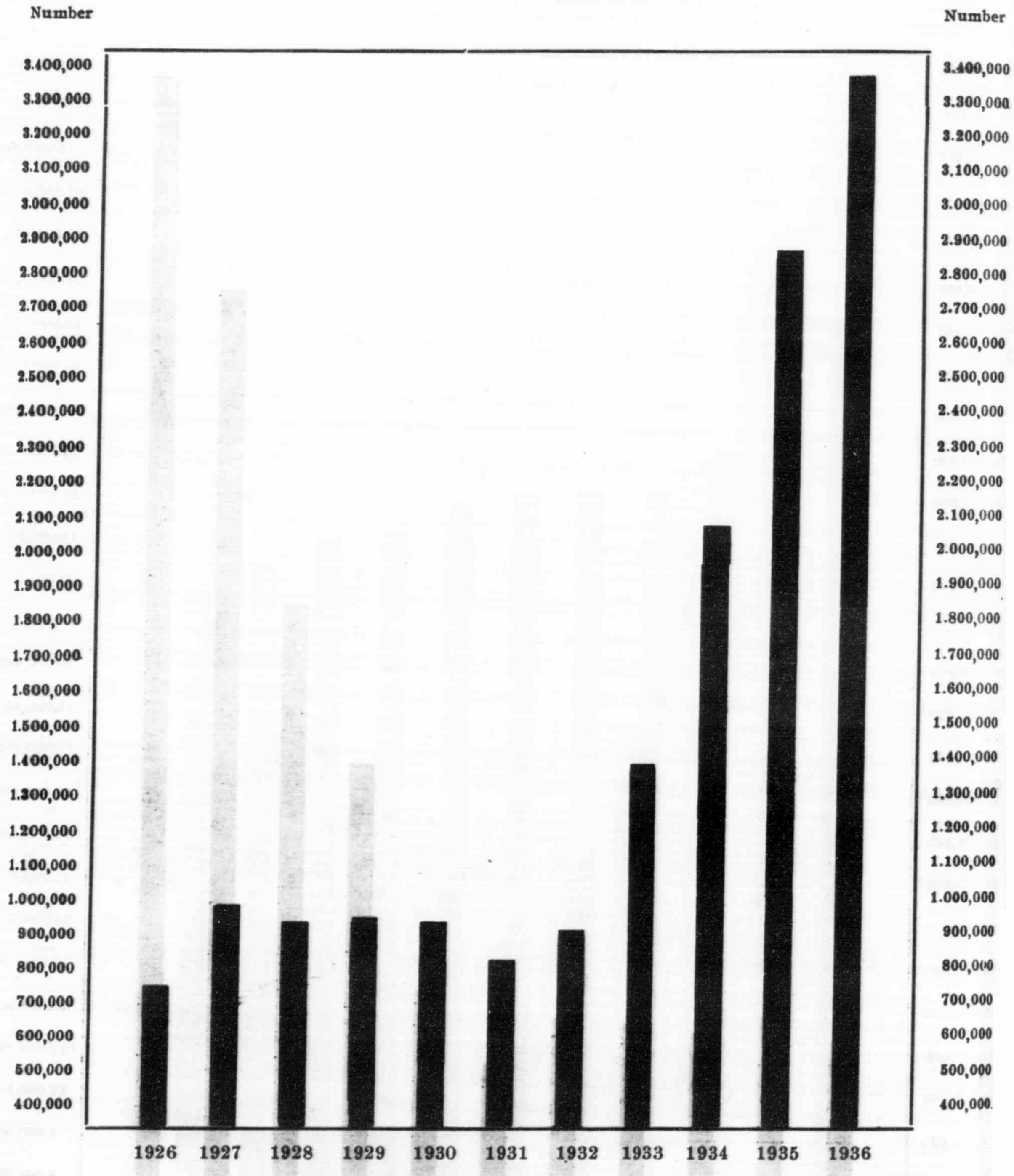
LETTERS INCLUDING LETTER PACKETS.

(Inland Posted and Foreign Posted and Delivered).



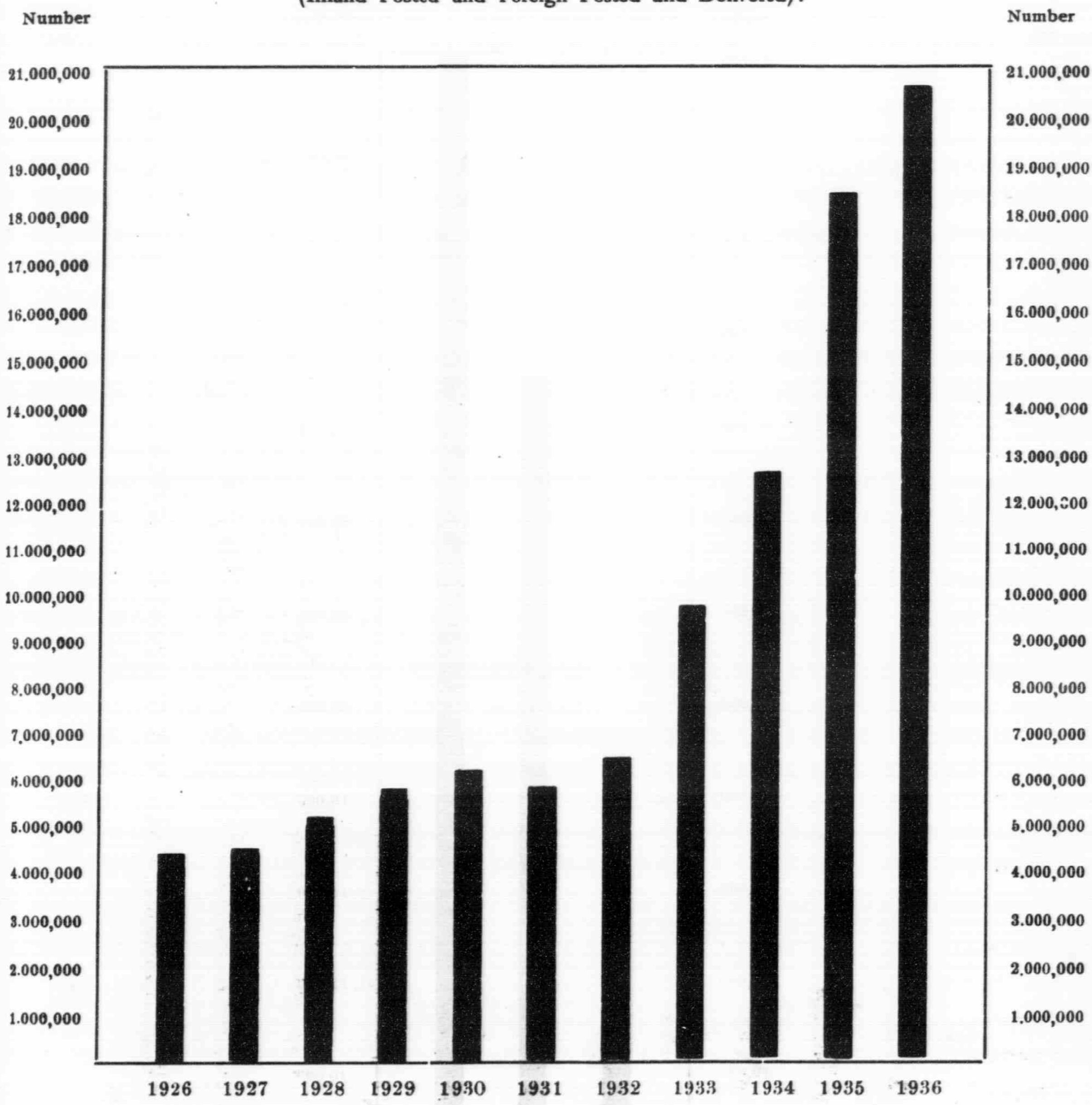
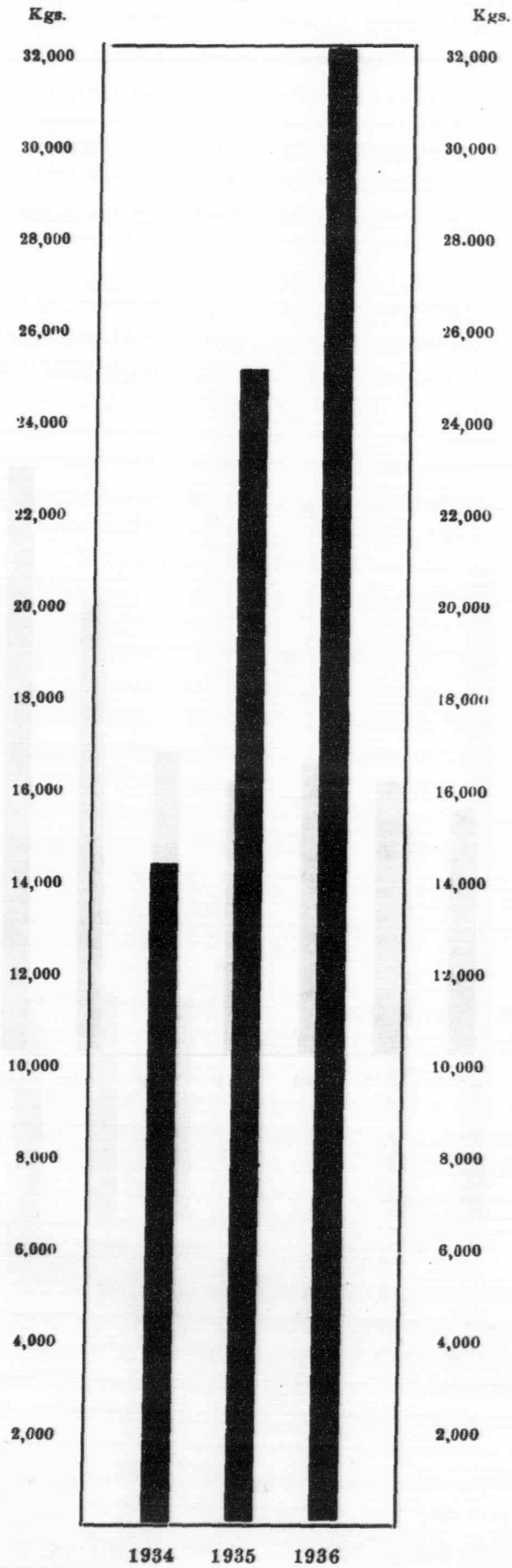
POST CARDS.

(Inland Posted and Foreign Posted and Delivered).



PRINTED MATTER AND SAMPLES.

(Inland Posted and Foreign Posted and Delivered).



AIR MAIL-TOTAL WEIGHT DESPATCHED.